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HOUSE BILL 1226

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State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Sells, Barlow, Santos, Appleton, Lovick, Strow, Hasegawa, Quall, Dunshee, Hunt, McCoy, Priest, Ormsby and Wood

Read first time . Referred to .

1            AN ACT Relating to establishing the first peoples' language,  
2 culture, and history teacher certification program; amending RCW  
3 28A.415.020; adding a new section to chapter 28A.410 RCW; and creating  
4 a new section.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

7            (1) Teaching first peoples' languages, cultures, and history is a  
8 critical factor in successful educational experiences and promoting  
9 cultural sensitivity for all students. The effect is particularly  
10 strong for Native American students;

11            (2) Native American students have the highest high school dropout  
12 rate among all groups of students. Less than one-fourth of Native  
13 American students in the class of 2008 are on track to graduate based  
14 on the results of the Washington assessment of student learning.  
15 Positive and supportive educational experiences are critical for Native  
16 American students' success;

17            (3) The sole expertise of tribal governments in the transmission of  
18 their indigenous languages, heritage, cultural knowledge, histories,  
19 customs, and traditions should be honored;

1 (4) Government-to-government collaboration between the state and  
2 the sovereign tribal governments of Washington state serves to  
3 implement the spirit of the 1989 centennial accord;

4 (5) Establishing a first peoples' language, culture, and history  
5 teacher certification program both achieves educational objectives and  
6 models effective government-to-government relationships;

7 (6) Establishing a first peoples' language, culture, and history  
8 certification program implements the following policy objectives of  
9 P.L. 101-477, the federal Native American languages act of 1990, in a  
10 tangible way:

11 (a) To preserve, protect, and promote the rights and freedom of  
12 Native Americans to use, practice, and develop Native American  
13 languages;

14 (b) To allow exceptions to teacher certification requirements for  
15 federal programs and programs funded in whole or in part by the federal  
16 government, for instruction in Native American languages when such  
17 teacher certification requirements hinder the employment of qualified  
18 teachers who teach in Native American languages, and to encourage state  
19 and territorial governments to make similar exceptions;

20 (c) To encourage and support the use of Native American languages  
21 as a medium of instruction in order to encourage and support Native  
22 American language survival, educational opportunity, increased student  
23 success and performance, increased student awareness and knowledge of  
24 their culture and history, and increased student and community pride;

25 (d) To encourage state and local education programs to work with  
26 Native American parents, educators, Indian tribes, and other Native  
27 American governing bodies in the implementation of programs to put this  
28 policy into effect; and

29 (e) To encourage all institutions of elementary, secondary, and  
30 higher education, where appropriate, to include Native American  
31 languages in the curriculum in the same manner as foreign languages and  
32 to grant proficiency in Native American languages the same full  
33 academic credit as proficiency in foreign languages;

34 (7) Establishing a first peoples' language, culture, and history  
35 certification program is consistent with the intent of presidential  
36 executive order number 13336 from 2004, entitled "American Indian and  
37 Alaska native education," to assist students in meeting the challenging

1 student academic standards of P.L. 107-110, the no child left behind  
2 act of 2001, in a manner that is consistent with tribal traditions,  
3 languages, and cultures.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.410  
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) The Washington state first peoples' language, culture, and  
7 history teacher certification program is established. The professional  
8 educator standards board shall adopt rules to implement the program in  
9 collaboration with the sovereign tribal governments of Washington  
10 state, including the tribal leader congress on education and the first  
11 peoples' language and culture committee. The collaboration required  
12 under this section shall be defined by a protocol for cogovernance in  
13 education developed by the professional educator standards board and  
14 the sovereign tribal governments of Washington state.

15 (2) Any sovereign tribal government in the state of Washington may  
16 participate individually on a government-to-government basis in the  
17 program.

18 (3) Under the first peoples' language, culture, and history teacher  
19 certification program:

20 (a) Only a participating sovereign tribal government may certify  
21 individuals who meet the tribe's criteria for certification as a  
22 teacher in the Washington state first peoples' language, culture, and  
23 history program. The professional educator standards board shall not  
24 authorize or accept a certificate or endorsement in Washington state  
25 first peoples' language, culture, and history without verification from  
26 a participating sovereign tribal government;

27 (b) For each teacher to be certified in the program, the  
28 participating sovereign tribal government shall submit information and  
29 documentation necessary for the issuance of a state certificate, as  
30 defined by rule, to the professional educator standards board;

31 (c) A Washington state first peoples' language, culture, and  
32 history teacher certificate serves as a subject area endorsement in  
33 first peoples' language, culture, and history. The holder of a  
34 Washington state first peoples' language, culture, and history teacher  
35 certificate who does not also hold an initial, residency, continuing,  
36 or professional teaching certificate authorized by the professional

1 educator standards board may be assigned to teach only the languages,  
2 cultures, and histories designated on the certificate and no other  
3 subject;

4 (d) A Washington state first peoples' language, culture, and  
5 history teacher certificate remains valid and recognized by the state  
6 of Washington under this section until modified or revoked by the  
7 participating sovereign tribal government that certified the teacher.  
8 A participating sovereign tribal government shall notify the  
9 professional educator standards board if the tribal government modifies  
10 or revokes a first peoples' language, culture, and history teacher  
11 certificate; and

12 (e) The holder of a Washington state first peoples' language,  
13 culture, and history teacher certificate meets Washington state's  
14 definition of a highly qualified teacher under P.L. 107-110, the no  
15 child left behind act of 2001, for the purposes of teaching first  
16 peoples' language, culture, and history, subject to approval by the  
17 United States department of education.

18 (4) First peoples' language/culture teacher certificates issued by  
19 the state board of education or the professional educator standards  
20 board under a pilot program before the effective date of this section  
21 remain valid as certificates under this section, subject to  
22 modification or revocation as provided in this section.

23 (5) Schools and school districts on or near tribal reservations are  
24 encouraged to contract with sovereign tribal governments and first  
25 peoples' language, culture, and history certification programs for in-  
26 service teacher training and continuing education in the culture and  
27 history appropriate for their geographic area, as well as suggested  
28 pedagogy and instructional strategies.

29 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.415.020 and 2006 c 263 s 808 are each amended to  
30 read as follows:

31 (1) Certificated personnel shall receive for each ten clock hours  
32 of approved in-service training attended the equivalent of a one credit  
33 college quarter course on the salary schedule developed by the  
34 legislative evaluation and accountability program committee.

35 (2) Certificated personnel shall receive for each ten clock hours  
36 of approved continuing education earned, as continuing education is  
37 defined by rule adopted by the professional educator standards board,

1 the equivalent of a one credit college quarter course on the salary  
2 schedule developed by the legislative evaluation and accountability  
3 program committee.

4 (3) Certificated personnel shall receive for each forty clock hours  
5 of participation in an approved internship with a business, an  
6 industry, or government, as an internship is defined by rule of the  
7 professional educator standards board in accordance with RCW  
8 28A.415.025, the equivalent of a one credit college quarter course on  
9 the salary schedule developed by the legislative evaluation and  
10 accountability program committee.

11 (4) An approved in-service training program shall be a program  
12 approved by a school district board of directors, which meet standards  
13 adopted by the professional educator standards board, and the  
14 development of said program has been participated in by an in-service  
15 training task force whose membership is the same as provided under RCW  
16 28A.415.040, or a program offered by an education agency approved to  
17 provide in-service for the purposes of continuing education as provided  
18 for under rules adopted by the professional educator standards board,  
19 or both.

20 (5) Clock hours eligible for application to the salary schedule  
21 developed by the legislative evaluation and accountability program  
22 committee as described in subsections (1) and (2) of this section,  
23 shall be those hours acquired after August 31, 1987. Clock hours  
24 eligible for application to the salary schedule as described in  
25 subsection (3) of this section shall be those hours acquired after  
26 December 31, 1995.

27 (6) In-service training or continuing education in first peoples'  
28 language, culture, or history provided by a sovereign tribal government  
29 participating in the Washington state first peoples' language, culture,  
30 and history program authorized under section 2 of this act shall be  
31 considered approved in-service training or approved continuing  
32 education under this section and RCW 28A.415.023.

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