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SENATE BILL 5269

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State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By Senators McAuliffe, Delvin, Kauffman, Roach, Franklin, Rasmussen, Kohl-Welles, Sheldon, Marr, Murray, Oemig, Jacobsen, Rockefeller, Shin and Kilmer

Read first time 01/15/2007. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

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 new sections.

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. Experience shows such teaching  
10 dramatically raises student achievement. The effect is particularly  
11 strong for Native American students;

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

18 (3) The sole expertise of sovereign tribal governments in the

1 transmission of their indigenous languages, heritage, cultural  
2 knowledge, histories, customs, and traditions should be honored;

3 (4) Government-to-government collaboration between the state and  
4 the sovereign tribal governments of Washington state serves to  
5 implement the spirit of the 1989 centennial accord and other similar  
6 government-to-government agreements;

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

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

14 (a) To preserve, protect, and promote the rights and freedom of  
15 Native Americans to use, practice, and develop Native American  
16 languages;

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

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

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

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

37 (7) Establishing a first peoples' language, culture, and history  
38 certification program is consistent with the intent of presidential

1 executive order number 13336 from 2004, entitled "American Indian and  
2 Alaska native education," to assist students in meeting the challenging  
3 student academic standards of P.L. 107-110, the no child left behind  
4 act of 2001, in a manner that is consistent with tribal traditions,  
5 languages, and cultures.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

36 (2) Certificated personnel shall receive for each ten clock hours  
37 of approved continuing education earned, as continuing education is

1 defined by rule adopted by the professional educator standards board,  
2 the equivalent of a one credit college quarter course on the salary  
3 schedule developed by the legislative evaluation and accountability  
4 program committee.

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

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

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

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

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act may be known and cited as the  
35 "First peoples' language/culture/history teacher certification act:

1 Honoring our ancestors."

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