

SENATE BILL NO. 342

INTRODUCED BY WINDY BOY, HANSEN

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE MONTANA INDIAN LANGUAGE PRESERVATION PILOT PROGRAM; PROVIDING A PROGRAM DESCRIPTION; PROVIDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND A TERMINATION DATE."

WHEREAS, Montana is committed in its educational goals to the preservation of American Indian cultural integrity; and

WHEREAS, language in the form of spoken, written, or sign language is foundational to cultural integrity; and

WHEREAS, Montana tribal languages are in a time of crisis through the loss of native speakers, writers, and signers; and

WHEREAS, the tribes and the state have resources, such as the tribal colleges, councils, and historic preservation offices and the state universities, historical society, and library, to preserve and protect Montana tribal languages for this and future generations.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Montana Indian language preservation pilot program.** (1) There is a Montana Indian language preservation pilot program. The program is established to support efforts of Montana tribes to preserve Indian language in the form of spoken, written, or sign language AND TO ASSIST IN THE PRESERVATION AND CURRICULAR GOALS OF INDIAN EDUCATION FOR ALL PURSUANT TO ARTICLE X, SECTION 1(2), OF THE MONTANA CONSTITUTION AND TITLE 20, CHAPTER 1, PART 5. PROGRAM ELEMENTS MAY INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- (A) LANGUAGE CLASSES;
- (B) AUDIO AND VISUAL RECORDINGS;
- (C) LANGUAGE IMMERSION CAMPS;
- (D) CREATION OF DICTIONARIES;
- (E) STORYTELLING; AND

1 (F) PUBLICATION OF LITERATURE.

2 (2) THE STATE-TRIBAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION ESTABLISHED IN 90-1-131 SHALL ADMINISTER  
 3 THE PROGRAM AND, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, THE STATE DIRECTOR OF INDIAN  
 4 AFFAIRS, AND EACH TRIBAL GOVERNMENT LOCATED ON THE SEVEN MONTANA RESERVATIONS AND THE LITTLE SHELL  
 5 CHIPPEWA TRIBE, ESTABLISH RULES AND GUIDELINES FOR THE PROGRAM.

6 ~~(2)(3)~~ The ~~office of public instruction~~ STATE-TRIBAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION shall distribute  
 7 any funding appropriated for this purpose ~~to tribal councils in proportion to the ANB of schools located on the~~  
 8 ~~reservations~~ EQUALLY TO EACH TRIBAL GOVERNMENT LOCATED ON THE SEVEN MONTANA RESERVATIONS AND TO THE  
 9 LITTLE SHELL CHIPPEWA TRIBE.

10 ~~(3)(4)~~ Tribal ~~councils~~ GOVERNMENTS are encouraged to form partnerships among state and tribal entities  
 11 for the purpose of preserving Indian languages and educating all Montanans in a way that honors the cultural  
 12 integrity of American Indians. These entities include but are not limited to:

13 (A) THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS;

14 ~~(a)(B)~~ school districts located on reservations;

15 ~~(b)(C)~~ tribal colleges;

16 ~~(c)(D)~~ tribal historic preservation offices;

17 ~~(d)(E)~~ tribal language and cultural programs;

18 ~~(e)(F)~~ units of the Montana university system;

19 ~~(f)(G)~~ the Montana historical society;

20 ~~(g)(H)~~ the office of public instruction;

21 ~~(h)(I)~~ school districts not located on reservations; and

22 ~~(i)(J)~~ the Montana state library.

23 ~~(4)(5)~~ Tribal ~~councils~~ GOVERNMENTS receiving program funds shall form program advisory boards.  
 24 Members of the boards may include but are not limited to representatives from any of the entities listed in  
 25 subsection ~~(3)~~ (4). The advisory board shall adopt guiding principles for the program and shall report on program  
 26 efforts to the state-tribal relations committee.

27 ~~(5)(6)~~ The state-tribal relations committee shall report any findings, comments, or recommendations  
 28 regarding the program to the 64th legislature.

29 ~~(6)(7)~~ ~~At~~ ANY cultural and intellectual property rights from program efforts remain with the tribe BUT MAY  
 30 BE NEGOTIATED BETWEEN THE TRIBE AND OTHER PARTNERING ENTITIES.

