AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE TRIBAL COMPUTER PROGRAMMING BOOST SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; ASSIGNING ADMINISTRATION OF THE TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMPONENT OF THE PROGRAM TO THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION AND THE INCENTIVIZED STUDENT TRAINING COMPONENT OF THE PROGRAM TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY; DESCRIBING THE PURPOSES AND PARAMETERS OF THE PROGRAM; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND A TERMINATION DATE.

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

Section 1.   Tribal computer programming boost scholarship program. (1) There is a tribal computer programming boost scholarship program. The purpose of the program is to:

(a)   support the development of computer programming courses at high schools located on Indian reservations in the state;

(b)   increase interest among Indian students in pursuing computer programming and other technology-related careers; and

(c)   enhance technology-related economic development in Indian country.

(2)   (a) The office of public instruction shall administer the teacher professional development component of the program and develop criteria to determine scholarship awardees.

(b)   Scholarships under the program must be used to support the professional development of high school teachers responsible for technology instruction and currently employed or with a contract for employment in a high school located on an Indian reservation in the state or in a high school serving members of the Little Shell Chippewa tribe.

(c)   The scholarships may be for up to $2,000 and may only be used to defray the expenses of professional development for a teacher that results in the creation or refinement of world-class computer

programming courses offered at the teacher's high school. The professional development must include

coursework or other activities taken at a unit of the Montana university system or a community college or tribal

college located in the state.

(3)   (a) The department of labor and industry shall administer the incentivized student training

component of the program and develop criteria to award grants to organizations to implement incentivized

student training programs.

(b)   An organization awarded a grant shall:

(i)   deliver a self-paced computer coding training program to eligible youth in tribal communities to

prepare students for in-demand technology occupations;

(ii) incentivize successful completion of training milestones by providing cash or other equivalent

stipends to eligible youth. Eligible youth may be paid stipends for time spent receiving instruction and for

participating in unpaid work-based learning opportunities.

(iii) work with industry partners to develop youth apprenticeship and registered apprenticeship

opportunities, internships, and other programs to be made available to eligible youth who complete the training

program; and

(iv) provide eligible youth with information and exposure to computer science-related career and job

opportunities, including the degrees or credentials required to be qualified for various opportunities, locations

where the degrees or credentials may be obtained, and what secondary and postsecondary education

coursework would benefit a participant who would like to pursue a computer science-related career.

(c)   The department of labor and industry shall utilize available federal workforce funds and may

accept contributions and donations from individuals and industry partners for the purpose of this subsection (3).

(d)   For the purposes of this subsection (3), the term "eligible youth" has the same meaning as in

section 3102 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, 29 U.S.C. 32.

(4)   The education interim committee established in 5-5-224 shall include the monitoring of this

program in its duties for the 2021 and 2022 interim and may request reports from the office of public instruction

and the department of labor and industry on the implementation of the program. The education interim

committee shall make available any information it acquires on the program to the state-tribal relations

committee established in 5-5-229 and is encouraged to collaborate with the state-tribal relations committee in

its monitoring of the program and on any modifications to the program.

Section 2.   Appropriation. There is appropriated $32,000 from the general fund to the office of public

instruction for each fiscal year of the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, for the purpose of the teacher

professional development aspect of the tribal computer programming boost scholarship program established in

[section 1(2)]. The office of public instruction shall provide funding for at least two high school teachers currently

employed or with a contract for employment in a high school located on each of the seven Indian reservations

in Montana and in a high school or schools serving members of the Little Shell Chippewa tribe.

Section 3.   Notification to tribal governments. The secretary of state shall send a copy of [this act]

to each federally recognized tribal government in Montana.

Section 4.   Codification instruction. [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title

20, chapter 7, and the provisions of Title 20, chapter 7, apply to [section 1].

Section 5.   Effective date. [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

Section 6.   Termination. [This act] terminates June 30, 2025.

- END -

I hereby certify that the within bill,

HB 644, originated in the House.

_____

Chief Clerk of the House

_____

Speaker of the House

Signed this _____day

of_____, 2021.

_____

President of the Senate

Signed this _____day

of_____, 2021.

HOUSE BILL NO. 644

INTRODUCED BY J. WINDY BOY

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE TRIBAL COMPUTER PROGRAMMING BOOST SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; ASSIGNING ADMINISTRATION OF THE TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMPONENT OF THE PROGRAM TO THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION AND THE INCENTIVIZED STUDENT TRAINING COMPONENT OF THE PROGRAM TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY; DESCRIBING THE PURPOSES AND PARAMETERS OF THE PROGRAM; PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND A TERMINATION DATE.