

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 338

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6 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REVISING INDIAN EDUCATION FOR ALL; PROVIDING A
7 DEFINITION OF "EDUCATIONAL AGENCY"; REQUIRING SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO PROVIDE INDIAN
8 EDUCATION FOR ALL; REQUIRING THE BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION AND SUPERINTENDENT OF
9 PUBLIC INSTRUCTION TO INCORPORATE THE DISTINCT AND UNIQUE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF
10 MONTANA AMERICAN INDIANS INTO CONTENT STANDARDS WITH INVOLVEMENT FROM THE TRIBES;
11 ENHANCING THE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR INDIAN EDUCATION FOR ALL FUNDS
12 DISTRIBUTED TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS; AMENDING SECTIONS 20-1-501, 20-1-502, 20-1-503, AND 20-9-
13 329, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

14
15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:16
17 **Section 1.** Section 20-1-501, MCA, is amended to read:18 **"20-1-501. Recognition of American Indian cultural heritage -- legislative intent.** (1) It is the
19 constitutionally declared policy of this state to recognize the distinct and unique cultural heritage of American
20 Indians and to be committed in its educational goals to the preservation of their cultural heritage.21 (2) It is the intent of the legislature that in accordance with Article X, section 1(2), of the Montana
22 constitution:23 (a) every Montanan, whether Indian or non-Indian, ~~be encouraged to~~ learn about the distinct and
24 unique heritage of American Indians in a culturally responsive manner; and25 (b) every educational agency ~~and all educational personnel will~~ work cooperatively with Montana
26 tribes or those tribes that are in close proximity, when providing instruction or when implementing an
27 educational goal or adopting a rule related to the education of each Montana citizen, to include information
28 specific to the cultural heritage and contemporary contributions of American Indians, with particular emphasis

1 on Montana Indian tribal groups and governments.

2 (3) It is also the intent of this part, predicated on the belief that all school personnel should have an
3 understanding and awareness of Indian tribes to help them relate effectively with Indian students and parents,
4 that educational ~~personnel~~ agencies provide means by which school personnel will gain an understanding of
5 and appreciation for the American Indian people."
6

7 **Section 2.** Section 20-1-502, MCA, is amended to read:

8 **"20-1-502. American Indian studies -- definitions.** As used in this part, the following definitions
9 apply:

10 (1) "American Indian studies" means instruction pertaining to the history, traditions, customs,
11 values, beliefs, ethics, LANGUAGE, and contemporary affairs of American Indians, particularly Indian tribal
12 groups in Montana.

13 (2) "Educational agency" means:

14 (a) the Montana university system;

15 (b) professional educator preparation programs accredited by the board of public education;

16 (c) the board of public education;

17 (d) the office of public instruction; and

18 (e) school districts.

19 ~~(2)~~(3) "Instruction" means:

20 (a) a formal course of study or class, developed with the advice and assistance of Indian people,
21 that is offered separately or that is integrated into existing accreditation standards by a unit of the university
22 system or by an accredited tribal community college located in Montana, including a teacher education program
23 within the university system or a tribal community college located in Montana, or by the board of trustees of a
24 school district;

25 (b) inservice training developed by the superintendent of public instruction in cooperation with
26 educators of Indian descent and made available to school districts;

27 (c) inservice training provided by a local board of trustees of a school district, which is developed
28 and conducted in cooperation with tribal education departments, tribal community colleges, or other recognized

1 Indian education resource specialists; or

2 (d) inservice training developed by professional education organizations or associations in
3 cooperation with educators of Indian descent and made available to all certified and classified personnel."

4

5 **Section 3.** Section 20-1-503, MCA, is amended to read:

6 **"20-1-503. ~~Qualification in Indian studies -- trustees and noncertified personnel~~ Indian**

7 **education for all.** (1) ~~The board of trustees for an elementary or secondary public school district may require~~
8 ~~that all of its certified personnel satisfy the requirements for instruction in American Indian studies. Pursuant to~~
9 ~~Article X, section 8, of the Montana constitution, this requirement may be a local school district requirement with~~
10 ~~enforcement and administration solely the responsibility of the local board of trustees. Pursuant to this part and~~
11 ~~20-9-329 and the definition of basic system of free quality public elementary and secondary schools under 20-~~
12 ~~9-309, the board of trustees of a school district shall ensure-REQUIRE that all certified personnel and all students~~
13 ~~receive instruction in American Indian studies.~~

14 (2) Members of boards of trustees and all noncertified personnel in public school districts are
15 encouraged to satisfy the requirements for instruction in American Indian studies.

16 (3) (A) PURSUANT TO ARTICLE X, SECTION 1(2), OF THE MONTANA CONSTITUTION, 20-1-501, 20-7-101,
17 AND 20-9-309, THE BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION SHALL INCORPORATE THE DISTINCT AND UNIQUE CULTURAL HERITAGE
18 OF MONTANA AMERICAN INDIANS IN THE CONTENT STANDARDS THAT SCHOOLS MUST IMPLEMENT AS A REQUIREMENT
19 FOR SCHOOL ACCREDITATION.

20 (B) THE SUPERINTENDENT SHALL INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES OF MONTANA INDIAN TRIBES ON
21 NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING COMMITTEES FORMED PURSUANT TO 20-7-101 ADDRESSING THE DEVELOPMENT OR REVISION
22 OF CONTENT STANDARDS UNDER SUBSECTION (3)(A)."

23

24 **Section 4.** Section 20-9-329, MCA, is amended to read:

25 **"20-9-329. Indian education for all payment.** (1) ~~The-Except as provided in subsection (5), the state~~
26 shall provide an Indian education for all payment to public school districts, as defined in 20-6-101 and 20-6-701,
27 to implement the provisions of Article X, section 1(2), of the Montana constitution and Title 20, chapter 1, part 5.

28 (2) The Indian education for all payment is calculated as provided in 20-9-306 and is a component

1 of the BASE budget of the district.

2 (3) The district shall deposit the payment in the general fund of the district.

3 (4) (a) A public school district that receives an Indian education for all payment may not divert the
4 funds to any purpose other than curriculum development OF AN AMERICAN INDIAN STUDIES PROGRAM, providing
5 curriculum and materials to students FOR THE PROGRAM, and providing training to teachers about the PROGRAM'S
6 curriculum and materials.

7 (b) A public school district shall file an annual report with the office of public instruction, ~~in a form~~
8 ~~prescribed by the superintendent of public instruction,~~ IN A FORM AND BY A DATE PRESCRIBED BY THE
9 SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION, that specifies how the Indian education for all funds were expended IN
10 THE PRIOR SCHOOL FISCAL YEAR IN SUFFICIENT DETAIL TO ENSURE THAT ALL THE FUNDS WERE PROPERLY SPENT FOR
11 THE PURPOSES UNDER SUBSECTION (4)(A). In addition to the expenditure reporting, the report must include
12 detailed descriptions of:

13 (i) the instruction provided to certified personnel and students as required under 20-1-503; and

14 (ii) how this instruction was developed cooperatively with the advice and assistance of Montana
15 tribes pursuant to Title 20, chapter 1, part 5.

16 (5) (A) A school district that fails to file the annual report required under subsection (4) is ineligible
17 for the funding under this section FOR SUBSEQUENT SCHOOL FISCAL YEARS until the report is filed.

18 (B) IF A SCHOOL DISTRICT FILES A REPORT FAILING TO SHOW THAT ALL FUNDS RECEIVED UNDER THIS
19 SECTION WERE SPENT FOR THE PURPOSES OF SUBSECTION (4)(A), THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S BASE BUDGET AND
20 FUNDING UNDER THIS SECTION FOR THE SUBSEQUENT FISCAL YEAR MUST BE REDUCED BY THE AMOUNT OF FUNDING
21 RECEIVED THAT WAS NOT SPENT FOR THE PURPOSES OF SUBSECTION (4)(A)."

22
23 NEW SECTION. Section 5. Notification to tribal governments. The secretary of state shall send a
24 copy of [this act] to each federally recognized tribal government in Montana.

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26 NEW SECTION. Section 6. Effective date. [This act] is effective July 1, 2023.

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