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**SENATE BILL 5574**

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**State of Washington**

**69th Legislature**

**2025 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Nobles and Trudeau

1 AN ACT Relating to instruction on Asian American and Native  
2 Hawaiian/Pacific Islander history in public schools; adding a new  
3 section to chapter 28A.655 RCW; adding a new section to chapter  
4 28A.230 RCW; creating new sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

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

7 (a) The contributions of generations of Asian American and Native  
8 Hawaiian/Pacific Islander communities have enriched and strengthened  
9 this state and nation. Washington is the proud home of the seventh  
10 largest Asian American population and third largest Pacific Islander  
11 population in the nation, which make up nearly 12 percent of our  
12 state's population. Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific  
13 Islander residents have made valuable contributions to all areas of  
14 Washington, including in government, business, arts and sciences,  
15 medicine, law enforcement, and the military;

16 (b) Yet, Washington state has seen an increase in hate crimes and  
17 violence against historically marginalized groups, two-thirds of  
18 which are based on race or ethnicity. According to local and national  
19 surveys, there has been a particularly significant rise in Asian  
20 American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander youth experiencing  
21 bullying and racism;

1 (c) Regardless of one's background, every student in Washington  
2 state has a right to feel safe at school and in their communities;

3 (d) Teaching students about Asian American and Native Hawaiian/  
4 Pacific Islander history and contributions is an important response  
5 to the hateful rhetoric and violence the Asian American and Native  
6 Hawaiian/Pacific Islander community has experienced in recent years,  
7 and a preventive measure to guard against such rhetoric and violence  
8 in the future. For Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific  
9 Islander students specifically, it will bolster their mental health  
10 and sense of belonging in the state they call home. For all  
11 Washington students, this education would foster a stronger sense of  
12 community and shared history, underlining the struggles and values  
13 that connect all of us as Americans;

14 (e) Consistent with RCW 28A.655.300, the legislature recognizes  
15 the importance of public school students being global citizens in a  
16 global society with an appreciation for the contributions of diverse  
17 cultures. Research has shown that using historically accurate  
18 curricula that are inclusive of historically marginalized and  
19 underrepresented groups helps address lack of representation or  
20 misrepresentation; and leads to positive changes in students'  
21 attitudes, values, empathy, participation, academic performance, and  
22 attendance rates;

23 (f) Too often, Asian Americans are viewed as either the "model  
24 minority" or "perpetual foreigner," or both and omitted from ethnic  
25 studies, United States history, and Washington history curricula and  
26 instruction altogether. For Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders,  
27 many of these traditionally overburdened communities have been  
28 defined, excluded, and underserved by systems and institutions for  
29 decades.

30 (2) Accordingly, and with the support of Asian American and  
31 Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander community-based organizations, the  
32 legislature intends for education regarding the history of Asian  
33 Americans and Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders be mandatory in  
34 Washington's common schools.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.655  
36 RCW to read as follows:

37 (1) By September 1, 2028, the office of the superintendent of  
38 public instruction shall adopt Asian American and Native Hawaiian/  
39 Pacific Islander history learning standards as part of the state

1 social studies learning standards and shall identify available  
2 curricula and other instructional materials that are aligned to those  
3 standards for use by school districts and collected in collaboration  
4 with leaders of Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander  
5 community-based organizations and the statewide association of  
6 educational service districts. For purposes of developing the  
7 learning standards, Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific  
8 Islander history includes, but is not limited to, the history of  
9 Americans of East Asian, Southeast Asian, South Asian, Native  
10 Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander descent.

11 (2) The history learning standards adopted under subsection (1)  
12 of this section must include, but are not limited to, the following  
13 topics:

14 (a) A focus on the history of Asian Americans and Native  
15 Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders in the state, the region, and the United  
16 States, including incorporated and unincorporated territories of the  
17 United States; and

18 (b) The local, regional, and national contributions of:

19 (i) Asian Americans and Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders  
20 towards advancing civil rights from the 19th century to the present  
21 day;

22 (ii) Individual Asian Americans and Native Hawaiians/Pacific  
23 Islanders in government, the arts, humanities, and sciences; and

24 (iii) Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander  
25 communities to the economic, cultural, social, and political  
26 development of the United States.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.230  
28 RCW to read as follows:

29 (1) Beginning in the 2029-30 school year, school districts shall  
30 provide instruction in grades K-12 on Asian American and Native  
31 Hawaiian/Pacific Islander history when the topic aligns with the  
32 state social studies learning standards adopted under section 2 of  
33 this act and is included in existing frameworks of United States  
34 history and Washington state history. This instruction must include  
35 the topics identified in section 2(2) of this act.

36 (2) When providing instruction on Asian American and Native  
37 Hawaiian/Pacific Islander history, school districts are encouraged to  
38 use the curricula and other instructional materials identified by the  
39 office of the superintendent of public instruction under the

1 provisions of section 2 of this act, ethnic studies materials and  
2 resources as made available under RCW 28A.300.112, or other existing  
3 and appropriate public or private materials, personnel, and  
4 resources, provided that they align with the state learning standards  
5 adopted by the office of the superintendent of public instruction  
6 under section 2 of this act.

7 (3) A school district may accept gifts, grants, and donations,  
8 including in-kind donations, related to instruction on Asian American  
9 and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander history.

10 (4) Beginning June 30, 2030, and by each June 30th thereafter,  
11 each school district shall provide a report to the state board of  
12 education, the office of the superintendent of public instruction,  
13 and the Washington state school directors' association, that the  
14 district is offering the instruction required under this section, and  
15 that the program of instruction is planned, ongoing, and systematic.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The office of the superintendent of  
17 public instruction shall establish an Asian American and Native  
18 Hawaiian/Pacific Islander history advisory committee to:

19 (a) Advise, assist, and make recommendations to the office of the  
20 superintendent of public instruction regarding the (i) implementation  
21 of learning standards regarding Asian American and Native Hawaiian/  
22 Pacific Islander contributions, history, and perspectives, and (ii)  
23 identification of Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander  
24 history curricula and other instructional materials described under  
25 section 2 of this act;

26 (b) Develop a framework to support the teaching of Asian American  
27 and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander history in grades K-12,  
28 including identifying educational programs, professional development,  
29 and teacher training opportunities; and

30 (c) Submit a report to the office of equity in accordance with  
31 RCW 43.18A.030.

32 (2) The Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander  
33 history advisory committee must meet the requirements in RCW  
34 43.18A.020 and be composed of representatives from the Washington  
35 state commission on Asian Pacific American affairs established in RCW  
36 43.117.030, at least five community organizations working with the  
37 Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander communities,  
38 state agencies, educators with experience teaching Asian American and  
39 Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander history in public high schools and

1 institutions of higher education, and any other relevant entities the  
2 office of the superintendent of public instruction identifies.

3 (3) To ensure that the advisory committee has diverse and  
4 inclusive representation of those affected by its work, advisory  
5 committee members must be compensated as provided in RCW 43.03.220.

6 (4) Advisory committee members are not entitled to be reimbursed  
7 for travel expenses if they are elected officials or are  
8 participating on behalf of an employer, governmental entity, or other  
9 organization.

10 (5) This section expires June 30, 2028.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Nothing in this act supersedes the use of  
12 the John McCoy (lulilaš) since time immemorial curriculum developed  
13 and required under RCW 28A.320.170(1)(b). This act is supplementary  
14 to, and does not supersede, the ethnic studies materials and  
15 resources for public school students referenced in RCW 28A.655.300  
16 and 28A.300.112.

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