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SENATE BILL 5687

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State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Senators Harper, McAuliffe, Fain, Hobbs, Morton, and Litzow

1 AN ACT Relating to creating an Indian education division in the  
2 office of the superintendent of public instruction; adding a new  
3 section to chapter 28A.300 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds:

6 (1) Leadership, technical assistance, and advocacy is important to  
7 promoting the academic success of all students, particularly including  
8 American Indian and Alaska Native students;

9 (2) American Indian and Alaska Native students make up two and one-  
10 half percent of the total student population in the state and twenty-  
11 five percent or more of the student population in fifty-seven schools  
12 across the state;

13 (3) The annual dropout rate for American Indian and Alaska Native  
14 students has hovered around ten or eleven percent over the past three  
15 school years and, while the on-time graduation rate for these students  
16 has improved between the 2006-07 and 2008-09 school years, it is still  
17 only fifty-two and seven-tenths percent; and

18 (4) Despite the passage of House Bill No. 1495 in 2005, with its  
19 goal of educating citizens of the state about tribal history, culture,

1 treaty rights, contemporary tribal and state government institutions  
2 and relations, and the contribution of American Indians and Alaska  
3 Natives to the state, that goal has yet to be achieved in many schools.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300  
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) The Indian education division is created within the office of  
7 the superintendent of public instruction. The superintendent shall  
8 appoint an assistant superintendent for Indian education.

9 (2) The Indian education division shall:

10 (a) Provide assistance to school districts in meeting the  
11 educational needs of American Indian and Alaska Native students;

12 (b) Facilitate the development and implementation of curricula and  
13 instructional materials in native languages, culture and history, and  
14 the concept of tribal sovereignty pursuant to RCW 28A.320.170;

15 (c) Provide assistance to districts in the acquisition of funding  
16 to develop curricula and instructional materials in conjunction with  
17 native language practitioners and tribal elders;

18 (d) Coordinate technical assistance for public schools that serve  
19 American Indian and Alaska Native students;

20 (e) Seek funds to develop, in conjunction with the Washington state  
21 native American education advisory committee, and implement the  
22 following support services for the purposes of both increasing the  
23 number of American Indian and Alaska Native teachers and principals and  
24 providing continued professional development for educational  
25 assistants, teachers, and principals serving American Indian and Alaska  
26 Native students:

27 (i) Recruitment and retention;

28 (ii) Academic transition programs;

29 (iii) Academic financial support;

30 (iv) Teacher preparation;

31 (v) Teacher induction; and

32 (vi) Professional development;

33 (f) Facilitate the inclusion of native language programs in school  
34 districts' curricula;

35 (g) Work with all relevant agencies and committees to highlight the  
36 need for accurate, useful data that is appropriately disaggregated to

1 provide a more accurate picture regarding American Indian and Alaska  
2 Native students; and

3 (h) Report to the governor, the legislature, and the governor's  
4 office of Indian affairs on an annual basis, beginning in December  
5 2012, regarding the state of Indian education and the implementation of  
6 all state laws regarding Indian education, specifically noting system  
7 successes and accomplishments, deficiencies, and needs.

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