

HOUSE BILL NO. 113

INTRODUCED BY E. GREEF

BY REQUEST OF THE STATE-TRIBAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ALLOWING STATE FUNDS TO BE USED AS MATCHING FUNDS FOR INDIAN LANGUAGE IMMERSION PROGRAMS; AMENDING SECTION 20-7-1404, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

Section 1. Section 20-7-1404, MCA, is amended to read:

"20-7-1404. (Temporary) Indian language immersion programs -- funding -- flexibility. (1) School

districts are encouraged to create Indian language immersion programs and in doing so:

(a) collaborate with other school districts, the Montana digital academy, tribal governments, and tribal colleges;

(b) utilize materials produced in the Montana Indian language preservation pilot program pursuant to section 1, Chapter 410, Laws of 2013;

(c) utilize American Indian language and culture specialists as teachers of language and culture; and

(d) look to existing native language schools in Montana and around the world for guidance and best practices.

(2) In acknowledgment of Article X, section 1, of the Montana constitution, the educationally relevant factors for the school funding formula under 20-9-309(3), and the increased costs associated with language immersion programs, a district creating an Indian language immersion program is entitled to the following in addition to the school funding formula in Title 20, chapter 9:

(a) (i) subject to subsections (3) and (4), for every Indian student participating in an Indian language immersion program, an additional American Indian achievement gap payment, as calculated in 20-9-306, multiplied by 2; and

(ii) for every non-Indian student participating in an Indian language immersion program, an additional Indian education for all payment, as calculated in 20-9-306, multiplied by 2; and

(b) for every full-time American Indian language and culture specialist teaching in an Indian language



1 immersion program, a quality educator payment as calculated in 20-9-306.

2 (3) For a district operating an Indian language immersion program that improves the district's graduation
3 rate for American Indians by 5 percentage points or more from the previous year as measured by the office of
4 public instruction, the multiplier in subsection (2)(a)(i) must be increased to 3.

5 (4) If the money appropriated for Indian {language} immersion programs is insufficient to provide the
6 amounts in subsections (2) and (3), the office of public instruction shall prorate the payments accordingly.

7 (5) The board of public education is encouraged to approve proposed variances to standards of
8 accreditation for Indian language immersion programs when the board finds the proposal to be educationally
9 sound and in alignment with the purpose described in 20-7-1402(2).

10 (6) The cultural and intellectual property rights from materials developed for an Indian language
11 immersion program belong to the tribe to which the materials relate. Use of the cultural and intellectual property
12 outside of the Indian language immersion program may be negotiated with the tribe.

13 (7) A district may use payments received pursuant to this section as matching funds for federal or private
14 fund sources to accomplish the purposes of this part. (Terminates June 30, 2019--sec. 10, Ch. 442, L. 2015.)"

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16 NEW SECTION. Section 2. Notification to tribal governments. The secretary of state shall send a
17 copy of [this act] to each tribal government located on the seven Montana reservations and to the Little Shell
18 Chippewa tribe.

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20 NEW SECTION. Section 3. Effective date. [This act] is effective July 1, 2017.

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