



**SELECT SENATE AND HOUSE BILLS IMPACTING INDIAN EDUCATION
IN THE 113TH CONGRESSIONAL SESSION
OCTOBER 3, 2014**

S. 2299 Native American Languages Reauthorization Act of 2014 (see also H.R. 726 [related])

Senator Tester submitted a report (S. Rep. 113-266) on behalf of the Senate Committee on Indian affairs recommending passage of the bill on October 1, 2014.

- Extends funding for the Act through FY19.
- Reduce total number of students required to be enrolled in language programs by 5.
- Extends the maximum number of years a grant may be given from 3 years to 5 years.
 - The Native American Programs Act of 1974 allows grant funding to create site-based educational programs, which ensure survival and vitality of Native American languages. These programs consist of Native American language nests, language survival schools, and language restoration programs for young children, as well as school age students. It also cited the Administration for Native Americans (ANA).

H.R. 2367 Building upon Unique Indian Learning and Development Act (see also S. 1131 [related])

Referred to the House Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education and the House Subcommittee Higher Education and Workforce Training on July 8, 2013.

- Requires the Department of Education and the Department of the Interior to create a joint oversight board to coordinate Indian education policies and assistance.
- Requires states to accommodate diverse learning styles by developing standard based assessments and classroom lessons.
- Expands grants and programs that support Native American language continuation and vitality in an educational setting, provides educational programs instructing Indian students in their Native language and also receiving English instruction.
- Requires program development in several areas: promoting healthy choices for Indian students and improving educational settings, developing gardens and nutrition which are within the context of tribal culture and are tribal-school specific, as well as focusing on drop-out prevention.
- Allows states to authorize tribes to verify teacher competency for American Indian, Alaska Native and Hawaiian culture, language, and history. Exempts these teachers from the highly qualified requirement.

S. 1948 Native Language Immersion Student Achievement Act (see also H.R. 4214 [identical])

Senator Tester submitted a report (S. Rep. 113-265) on behalf of the Senate Committee on Indian affairs recommending passage of the bill on October 1, 2014.

- Amends ESEA to promote the development, maintenance, improvement, and use of Native American languages as a primary language of educational instruction, prekindergarten through post-secondary, by authorizing the Secretary of Education to grant funds to schools and private or non-profit tribal organizations.
- Indian tribes and tribal education agencies added as eligible grantees.
- Requires applicants to develop assurances and demonstrations which show the ability to provide an education with a Native American language.
- Grant recipients support Native American language education, develop and implement Native American language curriculum and teaching materials, and strengthen language and education goals through the funding and training of instructors, staff, and administrators.

H.R. 1658 Native American Indian Education Act (see also S. 765 [related])

Referred to the House Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training on July 8, 2013 as well as the House Committee on Appropriations on April 18, 2013.

- Directs the Secretary of Education to pay a portion of the tuition for Native students in a college or state if the college received its original grant of land and facilities from the federal government and it already provides school tuition free to Native students.
- Payments to the institutions are treated as reimbursements from the state.

S. 1998 Native Adult Education and Literacy Act of 2014

Referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on February 06, 2014

- Includes Tribal Colleges or Universities as eligible providers of services under amendments to the Adult Education and Literacy Act.
- Encourages increased attainment of secondary school diplomas, or the equivalent, by adult American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians through grants for the development of a multiyear attainment strategy.
- Awards grant funding by the Secretary of Education to Tribal Colleges or Universities, as well as Native Hawaiian educational organizations, to develop and implement innovative educational programs, providing life skills and transitioning individuals to employability and post-secondary education.

S. 1094 Strengthening America's Schools Act of 2013

Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar on October 11, 2013.

- Amends the ESEA, reorganizing title VII, but keeping much of it as is.
- Allows states to authorize tribes to verify teacher competency for American Indian, Alaska Native, and Hawaiian culture, language, and history. Exempts these teachers from requirement to be highly qualified.
- Defines “traditional leaders” as Native Americans who have special expertise in Native American culture and languages. Requires their involvement in activities that support the unique cultural and educational needs of Indian children.
- Provides for greater teacher recruiting and retention.

S. 2458 American Indian Teacher Loan Forgiveness Act of 2014 (see also H.R. 5370 [related])

Referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on June 10, 2014.

- Amends title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide up to \$17,500 of student loan forgiveness for American Indian educators.

- Educators must be tribal members and have been employed for 5 consecutive years in either a BIE school or a school that serves a high percentage of American Indian students.

H.R. 4328 Johnson-O'Malley Supplemental Indian Education Program Modernization Act

Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce on March 27, 2014.

- Amends the Johnson-O'Malley Act to require contract funds to cover educational benefits. These benefits include existing programs, culturally sensitive dropout prevention programs, and college preparation programs.
- Allows the secretary to give contracting preference to consortiums of tribal organizations.

H.R. 403 To Amend the Percentage of Funds Appropriated Under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 Required to be Reserved for Outlying Areas and the Secretary of the Interior

Referred to House Subcommittee on Early Childhood Elementary and Secondary Education on April 23, 2013.

- Amends the Act to designate 0.75% of the funds appropriated for school improvement funds in outlying areas to the Secretary.

H.R. 1041 PRE-K Act (see also S. 519 [identical])

Referred to House Subcommittee on Early Childhood Elementary and Secondary Education on April 23, 2013.

- 1% of the total funds appropriated for the Act are reserved to the Secretary of the Interior to allocate as grants for Indian preschool programs.

H.R. 2069 To Amend the Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities Assistance Act of 1978 to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to waive certain eligibility requirements

Referred to the House Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training on July 8, 2013.

- Authorizes the Secretary to waive program eligibility requirements for tribally controlled colleges and universities when the waiver will support higher education opportunities.

H.R. 3547 Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014

Final, Passed by both House and Senate (P. Law 113-76) on January 17, 2014.

- Appropriates \$123,939,000 to the Department of Education to carry out Title VII part A of the ESEA for Indian Education grants.
- Appropriates \$2,378,763,000 for operation of Indian programs, not to exceed \$591,234,000 for Bureau of Indian Education school operation costs.
- Appropriates \$139,677 000 to operation of trust programs, which can be transferred or merged with the Bureau of Indian Education account.
- Reserves ½ of 1% of the \$158,000,000 allocated under ESEA for literacy development in Bureau of Indian Education schools.

H.R. 5171 Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015

Placed on the Union Calendar on July 23, 2014.

- Requests FY15 appropriation of \$2,434,202,000 for expenses necessary to operate Indian programs, not to exceed \$618,387,000 allocated for Bureau of Indian Education school operation costs.

- The Interior subcommittee report allocates \$2M for competitive grants to TEDs for activities at BIE schools.

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S. 1129 STEM 2 Act (see also H.R. 2334 [related])

Referred to Senate committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions on June 11, 2013.

- Directs the Secretary of Education to award competitive grants to Indian tribes or tribal originations to develop educational programs in tribal science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

2014 Oversight Hearings Senate Committee on Indian Affairs: Indian Education Series

June 11, 2014 - Examining Higher Education for American Indian Students.

- Cost of obtaining a higher education a barrier for many American Indian students.

May 21, 2014 - Ensuring that the Bureau of Indian Education has the Tools Necessary to Improve.

- Lack of strategic planning from Bureau of Indian Education frustrates out year funding.

April 9, 2014 - Indian Students in Public Schools - Cultivating the Next Generation.

- Coordination between public schools and the tribal community necessary for success.

February 26, 2014 - Early Childhood Development and Education in Indian Country: Building a Foundation for Academic Success.

- Parental and primary caregiver support improves children's overall performance.

Common Themes included:

- Lack of adequate funding for tribal education programs.
- Difficulty of recruiting and maintaining educators on reservations and tribal schools due to remoteness, availability of housing, and socio-economic conditions.
- Inability to upkeep school infrastructure or provide basic school maintenance at current funding levels.
- Importance of native culture and language as part of the curriculum.