

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 16, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 163

Introduced by Assembly Member Williams
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Alejo)
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bigelow, Eduardo Garcia,
Roger Hernández, Linder, and Wilk)

January 21, 2015

An act to amend Section 44262.5 of the Education Code, and to amend Section 1 of Chapter 324 of the Statutes of 2009, relating to teacher credentialing.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 163, as amended, Williams. Teaching credential: American Indian ~~languages-culture~~ *language-culture* credential.

Existing law authorizes the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, among other things, to establish professional standards, assessments, and examinations for entry and advancement in the education profession. Existing law requires the commission, upon recommendation by a tribal government of a federally recognized Indian tribe in California, to issue an American Indian languages credential to a candidate who has demonstrated fluency in that tribal language and met other requirements.

This bill would instead require the commission, upon recommendation by a tribal government of a federally recognized Indian tribe in California, to issue an American Indian—~~languages-culture~~ *language-culture* credential with an American Indian language authorization, or an American Indian culture authorization, or both, to a candidate who has met specified requirements. The bill would authorize the holder of an American Indian—~~languages-culture~~

language-culture credential to teach the American Indian language, or culture, or both, for which the credential was issued in California public schools in preschool, kindergarten, grades 1 to 12, inclusive, and in adult education courses, and would make the holder of that credential eligible for a clear teaching credential after 5 years, upon application and the recommendation of the tribal government, as specified. The bill would encourage each federally recognized American Indian tribe to develop a written and oral assessment that should be successfully completed before an applicant is recommended for an American Indian ~~languages-culture~~ *language-culture* credential with an American Indian language authorization, American Indian culture authorization, or both, as provided.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
 State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 44262.5 of the Education Code is
 2 amended to read:
 3 44262.5. (a) Upon recommendation of the tribal government
 4 of a federally recognized Indian tribe in California, the commission
 5 shall issue an American Indian ~~languages-culture~~ *language-culture*
 6 credential to a candidate who has met the following requirements:
 7 (1) (A) For the American Indian language authorization,
 8 demonstrated fluency in that tribe’s language based on an
 9 assessment developed and administered by that federally
 10 recognized Indian tribe pursuant to subdivision (e).
 11 (B) For the American Indian culture authorization, demonstrated
 12 knowledge in that tribe’s culture based on an assessment developed
 13 and administered by that federally recognized Indian tribe pursuant
 14 to subdivision (e).
 15 (C) Candidates meeting the requirements of both subparagraphs
 16 (A) and (B) shall be granted both the American Indian language
 17 and the American Indian culture authorizations.
 18 (2) Successfully completed a criminal background check
 19 conducted under Sections 44339, 44340, and 44341 for
 20 credentialing purposes.
 21 (3) Submitted an application, fee, and recommendation for the
 22 credential to the commission through the federally recognized
 23 Indian tribe.

1 (b) The American Indian ~~languages-culture~~ *language-culture*
2 credential shall authorize the holder to teach the American Indian
3 language, or culture, or both, for which the credential was issued
4 in California public schools in preschool, kindergarten, grades 1
5 to 12, inclusive, and in adult education courses.

6 (c) The holder of an American Indian ~~languages-culture~~
7 *language-culture* credential who does not also have a valid teaching
8 credential issued by the State of California shall not teach in a
9 public school, including a charter school, any subject other than
10 the American Indian language, or culture, or both, for which he
11 or she is credentialed.

12 (d) Each American Indian ~~languages-culture~~ *language-culture*
13 credential shall be issued initially for a two-year period and may
14 be renewed for a three-year period upon recommendation of the
15 tribal government. Upon completion of the three-year period, the
16 holder of an American Indian ~~languages-culture~~ *language-culture*
17 credential shall be eligible for a clear teaching credential for that
18 language upon application and the recommendation of the tribal
19 government, in consultation with the applicant's public school
20 employer.

21 (e) (1) Each federally recognized American Indian tribe is
22 encouraged to develop a written and oral assessment that should
23 be successfully completed before an applicant is recommended
24 for an American Indian ~~languages-culture~~ *language-culture*
25 credential.

26 (2) In developing the language assessment, an Indian tribe
27 should determine all of the following:

28 (A) Which dialects of the tribal language will be included in
29 the assessment.

30 (B) Whether the Indian tribe will standardize its writing system.

31 (C) The standard of knowledge and fluency required to qualify
32 for an American Indian ~~languages~~ *language* authorization in that
33 tribal language.

34 (D) Standards for effective teaching methods to be evaluated
35 in the classroom.

36 (3) In developing the culture assessment, an Indian tribe should
37 determine all of the following:

38 (A) The candidate's understanding of the tribe's culture and its
39 practices, including, but not limited to, ~~rituals~~ *ceremonies* and
40 traditions, social institutions and relationships, holidays and

1 festivals, health practices and traditions, patterns of work and
2 leisure, and culinary traditions and practices.

3 (B) The standard of knowledge required to qualify for an
4 American Indian culture authorization in that tribal culture.

5 (C) Standards for effective teaching methods to be evaluated in
6 the classroom.

7 (4) The assessment should be administered at an appropriate
8 location that does not create hardship for members of the Indian
9 tribe administering the assessment.

10 (f) Upon agreement by the tribe, a tribe recommending a
11 candidate for an American Indian—~~languages-culture~~
12 *language-culture* credential shall develop and administer a
13 technical assistance program guided by the California Standards
14 for the Teaching Profession. To the extent feasible, the program
15 shall be offered by teachers credentialed in an American Indian
16 language, or culture, or both, who have three or more years of
17 teaching experience. The technical assistance program may consist
18 of direct classroom observation and consultation, assistance in
19 instructional planning and preparation, support in implementation
20 and delivery of classroom instruction, and other assistance intended
21 to enhance the professional performance and development of the
22 teacher of an American Indian language, or culture, or both.

23 (g) Public school personnel responsible for evaluating teachers,
24 in accordance with local governing board policy, shall provide
25 individuals employed to teach on the basis of the American Indian
26 ~~languages-culture~~ *language-culture* credential with information
27 on the teaching personnel evaluation process and the California
28 Standards for the Teaching Profession.

29 (h) For a candidate who has already received an American Indian
30 ~~language~~ *languages* credential before the effective date of this
31 section, the tribe that recommended the candidate for the American
32 Indian—~~language~~ *languages* credential shall determine if the
33 candidate may add the American Indian culture authorization to
34 the preexisting languages credential, or if the candidate must
35 reapply for the American Indian culture authorization as a new
36 initial credential pursuant to subdivision (a).

37 SEC. 2. Section 1 of Chapter 324 of the Statutes of 2009 is
38 amended to read:

39 Section 1. The Legislature finds and declares the following:

- 1 (a) Teaching American Indian ~~languages~~ *language* and culture
- 2 is essential to the proper education of American Indian children.
- 3 (b) Preserving American Indian ~~languages~~ *language* and culture
- 4 is an important part of our national heritage and can be of value
- 5 to all Americans.