

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1703

Introduced by Assembly Member Ramos

January 26, 2022

An act to add Article 7 (commencing with Section 33390) to Chapter 3 of Part 20 of Division 2 of Title 2 of the Education Code, relating to California Indian education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1703, as introduced, Ramos. California Indian Education Act: California Indian Education Task Forces.

Existing law provides for the establishment of California American Indian education centers by any tribal group or incorporated American Indian association to meet specified objectives, and further provides for the administration of grants, upon application, by the State Department of Education for those purposes in accordance with specified provisions. Existing law requires each center to annually submit specified data to the department that reflects each center's ability to meet its stated objectives and any other objectives chosen by the center.

This bill would establish the California Indian Education Act and encourage school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools to form California Indian Education Task Forces with California tribes local to their regions or tribes historically located in the region. The bill would encourage task force participants to discuss issues of mutual concern and to undertake certain work. The bill would require California Indian Education Task Forces to submit, within one year of formation and annually thereafter, a report of findings to the State Department of Education, as provided. The bill would require the department to submit, within one year of receiving task force reports

and annually thereafter, a report to certain education committees of both houses of the Legislature regarding the narrowing of the achievement gap and the adoption of curriculum, 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. Article 7 (commencing with Section 33390) is
2 added to Chapter 3 of Part 20 of Division 2 of Title 2 of the
3 Education Code, to read:

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5 Article 7. California Indian Education Act

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7 33390. This article shall be known, and may be cited as, the
8 California Indian Education Act.

9 33391. (a) The Legislature encourages local educational
10 agencies to form California Indian Education Task Forces with
11 California Indian tribe’s local to their region or tribes historically
12 located in the region. Participants in these meetings are encouraged
13 to discuss issues of mutual concern, and are encouraged to work
14 to do all of the following:

15 (1) Develop a thorough, shared understanding of accurate,
16 high-quality curricular materials about the history, culture, and
17 government of local tribes, and develop curricular materials for
18 use within local educational agencies that include tribal experiences
19 and perspectives and teach about the history, culture, and
20 government of local tribes.

21 (2) Develop a shared understanding of proper or improper
22 instructional material when these materials use depictions of Native
23 Americans.

24 (3) Encourage local educational agencies to adopt curriculum
25 developed by the California Indian Education Task Forces, in order
26 to ensure that all pupils learn about the history, culture,
27 government, and experiences of their Indian peers and neighbors,
28 and to ensure that Indian pupils are more engaged and learn more
29 successfully.

30 (4) Identify the extent and nature of the achievement gap
31 between Indian pupils and other pupils, and identify the strategies
32 necessary to close it.

1 (b) California Indian Education Task Forces shall submit, within
2 one year of formation and annually thereafter, a report of findings
3 to the department, including a finding on the progress of the work
4 described in paragraphs (1) to (4), inclusive, of subdivision (a).

5 (c) The department shall submit, within one year of receiving
6 task force reports pursuant to subdivision (b) and annually
7 thereafter, a report to the Senate Education Committee and the
8 Assembly Committee on Education regarding the progress made
9 in the narrowing of the achievement gap, and the identification
10 and adoption of curriculum regarding tribal history, culture, and
11 government. The report shall include information about any
12 obstacles encountered, and any strategies under development to
13 overcome those obstacles.

14 (d) For purposes of this article, “local educational agency”
15 means a school district, county office of education, or charter
16 school.