

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 163

Introduced by Assembly Member Williams

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 introduced, Williams. Teaching credential: American Indian languages-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 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 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 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~~ *languages-culture*
 6 credential to a candidate who has met the following requirements:
 7 (1) ~~Demonstrated~~—(A) *For the American Indian language*
 8 *authorization, demonstrated* fluency in that tribe’s language based
 9 on an 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.
 24 (b) The American Indian ~~languages~~ *languages-culture* credential
 25 shall authorize the holder to teach the American Indian language,
 26 *or culture, or both*, for which the credential was issued in
 27 California public schools in preschool, kindergarten, grades 1 to
 28 12, inclusive, and in adult education courses.

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

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

16 (e) (1) Each federally recognized American Indian tribe is
17 encouraged to develop a written and oral assessment that should
18 be successfully completed before an applicant is recommended
19 for an American Indian—~~languages~~ *languages-culture* credential.

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

22 (A) Which dialects of the tribal language will be included in
23 the assessment.

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

25 (C) The standard of knowledge and fluency required to qualify
26 for an American Indian ~~languages-credential~~ *authorization* in that
27 tribal language.

28 (D) Standards for effective teaching methods to be evaluated
29 in the classroom.

30 (3) *In developing the culture assessment, an Indian tribe should*
31 *determine all of the following:*

32 (A) *The candidate’s understanding of the tribe’s culture and its*
33 *practices, including, but not limited to, rituals and traditions,*
34 *social institutions and relationships, holidays and festivals, health*
35 *practices and traditions, patterns of work and leisure, and culinary*
36 *traditions and practices.*

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

39 (C) *Standards for effective teaching methods to be evaluated in*
40 *the classroom.*

1 ~~(3)~~
 2 (4) The assessment should be administered at an appropriate
 3 location that does not create hardship for members of the Indian
 4 tribe administering the assessment.

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

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

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

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

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

36 (a) Teaching American Indian languages *and culture* is essential
 37 to the proper education of American Indian children.

1 (b) Preserving American Indian languages *and culture* is an
2 important part of our national heritage and can be of value to all
3 Americans.

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