

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

Establishes a council on indigenous language to promote language revitalization for children and adults, focusing on children's needs, and appropriates money.

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- 1 **Legislative findings.** Recognizes the unique status of American Indian cultures and languages.
- 2 **Council on indigenous language.**

Subd. 1. Creation; membership; executive director. (a) Creates an indigenous language council composed of one member each from the 11 Minnesota tribes and 10 Indian community members selected by the Dakota/Ojibwe Language Revitalization Alliance, including members with expertise in indigenous languages. Excludes tribal appointments from the statutory open appointments process.

(b) Directs the council annually to elect officers and allows the chair to appoint subcommittees. Excludes the council from the statutory expiration date.

(c) Directs the council's executive director to manage council operations and hire necessary staff. Requires the executive director to have administrative experience and be familiar with language revitalization. Causes the executive director and office staff to serve in the unclassified service.

(d) Allows council members to receive per diem and expense payments.

Subd. 2. Duties. (a) Directs the council to collaborate with the American Indian

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community in developing program funding guidelines and resources for language revitalization.

(b) Directs the council to promote language revitalization activities and programs for children and adults, focusing on children's needs. Directs the council to work with other interested stakeholders to identify programs to teach children to speak, read, and write indigenous languages.

(c) Directs the council to administer grants for programs that provide language revitalization activities and programs to children and adults.

(d) Directs the council to establish grant criteria and funding priorities.

(e) Directs the council, in consultation with tribal governments, to coordinate effective policies and programs that support language and culture and to develop an integrated language strategy.

(f) Directs the council to explore federal funding opportunities.

(g) Directs the council to work with government and tribal agencies to integrate funding and remove barriers to successful language revitalization efforts.

(h) Directs the council to work collaboratively to enable native speakers to teach in language revitalization programs and schools and to develop curriculum standards for indigenous language learning, consistent with other locally developed world languages standards.

(i) Allows the council to contract and to receive grants and gifts.

Subd. 3. Report required. Directs the council to report annually by January 15 to the legislature on the use of indigenous languages and the status of programs and efforts to preserve indigenous languages.

Subd. 4. Meetings. Allows the chair to call meetings. Makes a majority of council members a quorum.

Subd. 5. State agency assistance. Directs other state agencies to assist the council upon request.

Subd. 6. Appropriations and money received for the Council on Indigenous Language. Declares that all moneys and appropriations received for the council must be used for language revitalization purposes only.

3 Initial meeting. Directs a facilitator, designated by the Dakota/Ojibwe Language Revitalization Alliance, to convene the council's initial meeting.

4 Appropriations; council on indigenous languages. (a) Appropriates an unspecified general fund amount in fiscal year 2009 to the council.

(b) Appropriates unspecified general fund amounts in fiscal years 2008 and 2009 to the Minnesota Office of Higher Education for grants to the council to train indigenous language teachers. Requires the appropriation to be included in the office's base budget.

(c) Appropriates unspecified general fund amounts in fiscal years 2008 and 2009 to the commissioner of human services for council grants for language revitalization purposes.

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Requires the appropriation to be included in the agency's base budget.

(d) Appropriates unspecified general fund amounts in fiscal years 2008 and 2009 to the commissioner of education for council grants for language revitalization purposes. Requires the appropriation to be included in the agency's base budget.