

# ASSEMBLY, No. 3860

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 9, 2022

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON**

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

**Assemblyman BENJIE E. WIMBERLY**

**District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**Assemblywoman SADAF F. JAFFER**

**District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblymen Stanley, Caputo and Assemblywoman Jasey**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires school districts to provide instruction on history and contributions of Indigenous people as part of implementation of New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Social Studies.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/12/2022)**

A3860 REYNOLDS-JACKSON, WIMBERLY

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1 AN ACT concerning instruction on Indigenous people in public  
2 schools, supplementing chapter 35 of Title 18A of the New  
3 Jersey Statutes, and amending P.L.1995, c.295.

4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
6 of New Jersey:

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8 1. (New section) a. A board of education shall include age-  
9 appropriate instruction on the history and contributions of the  
10 Indigenous people of the United States for students in grades  
11 kindergarten through 12 as part of the district's implementation of  
12 the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Social Studies.

13 b. A board of education shall adopt policies and procedures  
14 pertaining to the selection of instructional materials to implement  
15 the requirements of subsection a. of this section. When adopting  
16 instructional materials for use in the schools of the district, a board  
17 of education shall select materials that portray the cultural diversity  
18 of Indigenous people.

19 c. A board of education shall seek the assistance and advice of  
20 the New Jersey Commission on American Indian Affairs in  
21 fulfilling the requirements of this section.

22

23 2. Section 4 of P.L.1995, c.295 (C.52:16A-56) is amended to  
24 read as follows:

25 4. The commission shall:

26 a. develop programs and projects relating to the cultural,  
27 educational and social development of New Jersey's American  
28 Indian communities;

29 b. develop programs and projects which further understanding  
30 of New Jersey's American Indian history and culture;

31 c. promote increased cooperation among all American Indian  
32 communities in the State;

33 d. serve as a Statewide reference and resource center to  
34 increase public knowledge of New Jersey's American Indian  
35 heritage, including providing assistance and advice to school  
36 districts with respect to the implementation of instructional  
37 requirements pursuant to section 1 of P.L. ,c. (C. ) (pending  
38 before the Legislature as this bill);

39 e. act as a liaison among American Indian communities, the  
40 State and federal governments, and educational, social and cultural  
41 institutions;

42 f. be authorized to raise funds, through direct solicitation or  
43 other fund raising events, alone or with other groups, and accept  
44 gifts, grants and bequests from individuals, corporations,  
45 foundations, governmental agencies, public and private

**EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

**Matter underlined thus is new matter.**

1 organizations and institutions, to defray the commission's  
2 administrative expenses and carry out the purposes of P.L.1995,  
3 c.295 (C.52:16A-53 et seq.), as amended and supplemented;

4 g. when requested by the Governor, assist the Legislature and  
5 Governor to investigate the authenticity of any organization, tribe,  
6 nation or other group seeking official recognition by the State as an  
7 American Indian tribe and submit a report of its findings to the  
8 Legislature and Governor within 180 days of the completion of an  
9 investigation. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as  
10 authorizing the commission to recognize the authenticity of any  
11 organization, tribe, nation or other group as an American Indian  
12 tribe, which recognition shall require specific statutory  
13 authorization, nor shall this subsection be construed as in any way  
14 limiting the scope of information that may be considered in  
15 determining whether to grant such statutory recognition.

16 (cf: P.L.2001, c.417, s.4)

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18 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall apply to first  
19 full school year following the date of enactment.

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#### STATEMENT

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24 This bill requires a board of education to include age-appropriate  
25 instruction on the history and contributions of the Indigenous  
26 people of the Americas for students in grades kindergarten through  
27 12 as part of the district's implementation of the New Jersey  
28 Student Learning Standards in Social Studies. A board of education  
29 would be required to adopt policies and procedures pertaining to the  
30 selection of instructional materials to implement the requirements  
31 of the bill and would be required to select materials that portray the  
32 cultural diversity of Indigenous people. The New Jersey  
33 Commission on American Indian Affairs will also be required to  
34 provide assistance and advice to school districts in implementing  
35 the instructional requirements of the bill.