

SENATE, No. 2390

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 24, 2022

Sponsored by:
Senator TROY SINGLETON
District 7 (Burlington)

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.



S2390 SINGLETON

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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.

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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
46 organizations and institutions, to defray the commission's
47 administrative expenses and carry out the purposes of P.L.1995,

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.

S2390 SINGLETON

1 c.295 (C.52:16A-53 et seq.), as amended and supplemented;
2 g. when requested by the Governor, assist the Legislature and
3 Governor to investigate the authenticity of any organization, tribe,
4 nation or other group seeking official recognition by the State as an
5 American Indian tribe and submit a report of its findings to the
6 Legislature and Governor within 180 days of the completion of an
7 investigation. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as
8 authorizing the commission to recognize the authenticity of any
9 organization, tribe, nation or other group as an American Indian
10 tribe, which recognition shall require specific statutory
11 authorization, nor shall this subsection be construed as in any way
12 limiting the scope of information that may be considered in
13 determining whether to grant such statutory recognition.

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

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

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STATEMENT

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