

Second Regular Session  
Sixty-eighth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

**PREAMENDED**

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee  
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 12-0197.01 Jane Ritter x4342

**SENATE BILL 12-057**

---

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Williams S.,**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Brown,**

---

**Senate Committees**  
Education

**House Committees**

---

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION.**

---

**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)*

The bill creates a teacher authorization for indigenous language instruction (authorization). The indigenous languages eligible under such an authorization must be from a federally recognized tribe. A holder of an authorization shall not be required to have completed a teacher preparation program or have a baccalaureate degree. Criteria for obtaining an authorization shall be established by rule of the state board of education.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.  
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

Additionally, the bill allows school district boards of education to grant general credit to a student after successful completion of indigenous language course work.

---

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-60.5-111, **add**  
3 (15) as follows:

4 **22-60.5-111. Authorization - types - applicants' qualifications**  
5 **- rules. (15) Native American language and culture instruction**  
6 **authorization.** (a) THE DEPARTMENT MAY ISSUE A NATIVE AMERICAN  
7 LANGUAGE AND CULTURE INSTRUCTION AUTHORIZATION TO AN  
8 INDIVIDUAL UNDER THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES:

9 (I) IF THE INDIVIDUAL QUALIFIES FOR AN ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR  
10 AUTHORIZATION PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION IN THE  
11 AREA OF NATIVE LANGUAGES; OR

12 (II) IF AN INDIVIDUAL CANNOT BE IDENTIFIED WHO MEETS THE  
13 CRITERIA OF SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH (a), THE EMPLOYING  
14 SCHOOL DISTRICT MAY ALLOW AN INDIVIDUAL TO APPLY TO THE  
15 DEPARTMENT FOR APPROVAL OF A NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE AND  
16 CULTURE INSTRUCTION AUTHORIZATION IF THE INDIVIDUAL HAS  
17 DEMONSTRATED EXPERTISE IN A NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE OF A  
18 FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBE. THE NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE AND  
19 CULTURE INSTRUCTION AUTHORIZATION SHALL ALLOW THE INDIVIDUAL TO  
20 TEACH THE NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE IN WHICH HE OR SHE HAS  
21 DEMONSTRATED EXPERTISE FOR THE EMPLOYING SCHOOL DISTRICT. AN  
22 INDIVIDUAL AUTHORIZED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBPARAGRAPH (II) SHALL  
23 WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH A LICENSED TEACHER WHO CURRENTLY  
24 TEACHES WORLD LANGUAGES FOR THE EMPLOYING SCHOOL DISTRICT. THE

1 APPROVAL PROCESS FOR THE NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE  
2 INSTRUCTION AUTHORIZATION SHALL BE ESTABLISHED BY RULE OF THE  
3 STATE BOARD AND SHALL INCLUDE, AT A MINIMUM:

4 (A) A METHOD TO ESTABLISH AND DOCUMENT THE EXPERTISE OF  
5 THE APPLICANT IN THE NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE OF A FEDERALLY  
6 RECOGNIZED TRIBE;

7 (B) THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE PARTNERING LICENSED TEACHER;

8 (C) A REQUIREMENT THAT THE APPLICANT MEET ANY OBJECTIVE  
9 STANDARDS FOR LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY ESTABLISHED BY THE STATE  
10 BOARD;

11 (D) A PROHIBITION ON THE APPLICANT FROM TEACHING ANY  
12 SUBJECT OTHER THAN THE NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE FOR WHICH HE  
13 OR SHE HAS DEMONSTRATED EXPERTISE; AND

14 (E) A RENEWAL PROCESS FOR THE AUTHORIZATION.

15 (b) A NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE  
16 AUTHORIZATION ISSUED PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH (a) OF THIS  
17 SUBSECTION (15) IS VALID FOR FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE OF ISSUANCE.

18 THE DEPARTMENT MAY RENEW THE AUTHORIZATION FOR SUCCEEDING  
19 FIVE-YEAR PERIODS UPON THE RECEIPT OF DOCUMENTED EVIDENCE THAT  
20 THE PERSON HOLDING THE AUTHORIZATION HAS COMPLETED ANY  
21 RENEWAL REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED BY RULE BY THE STATE BOARD OF  
22 EDUCATION.

23 (c) ALL LAWS AND RULES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO  
24 SECTION 22-9-106 AND ANY RULES PROMULGATED THEREUNDER RELATED  
25 TO EDUCATOR EVALUATION AND EFFECTIVENESS, SHALL APPLY TO THE  
26 INDIVIDUAL HOLDING AN AUTHORIZATION PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION  
27 (15).

1           **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 22-32-145 as  
2 follows:

3           **22-32-145. Native American language and culture instruction**  
4 **- general credit.** A SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION MAY ADOPT  
5 A POLICY TO GRANT GENERAL EDUCATION OR WORLD LANGUAGE CREDIT  
6 FOR THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE  
7 COURSE WORK FOR LANGUAGES OF FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBES. A  
8 PERSON INSTRUCTING A NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE COURSE SHALL  
9 MEET THE REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN SECTION 22-60.5-111 (15).

10           **SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
11 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
12 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August  
13 7, 2012, if adjournment sine die is on May 9, 2012); except that, if a  
14 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the  
15 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act  
16 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect  
17 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
18 November 2012 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
19 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.