

1 SENATE BILL NO. 342

2 INTRODUCED BY J. WINDY BOY

3

4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE MONTANA INDIAN LANGUAGE
5 PRESERVATION PILOT PROGRAM; PROVIDING A PROGRAM DESCRIPTION; AND PROVIDING AN
6 IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND A TERMINATION DATE."

7

8 WHEREAS, Montana is committed in its educational goals to the preservation of American Indian cultural
9 integrity; and

10 WHEREAS, language in the form of spoken, written, or sign language is foundational to cultural integrity;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Montana tribal languages are in a time of crisis through the loss of native speakers, writers,
13 and signers; and

14 WHEREAS, the tribes and the state have resources, such as the tribal colleges, councils, and historic
15 preservation offices and the state universities, historical society, and library, to preserve and protect Montana
16 tribal languages for this and future generations.

17

18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

19

20 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Montana Indian language preservation pilot program.** (1) There is a
21 Montana Indian language preservation pilot program. The program is established to support efforts of Montana
22 tribes to preserve Indian language in the form of spoken, written, or sign language.

23 (2) The office of public instruction shall distribute any funding appropriated for this purpose to tribal
24 councils in proportion to the ANB of schools located on the reservations.

25 (3) Tribal councils are encouraged to form partnerships among state and tribal entities for the purpose
26 of preserving Indian languages and educating all Montanans in a way that honors the cultural integrity of
27 American Indians. These entities include but are not limited to:

28 (a) school districts located on reservations;

29 (b) tribal colleges;

30 (c) tribal historic preservation offices;

- 1 (d) tribal language and cultural programs;
- 2 (e) units of the Montana university system;
- 3 (f) the Montana historical society;
- 4 (g) the office of public instruction;
- 5 (h) school districts not located on reservations; and
- 6 (i) the Montana state library.

7 (4) Tribal councils receiving program funds shall form program advisory boards. Members of the boards
 8 may include but are not limited to representatives from any of the entities listed in subsection (3). The advisory
 9 board shall adopt guiding principles for the program and shall report on program efforts to the state-tribal relations
 10 committee.

11 (5) The state-tribal relations committee shall report any findings, comments, or recommendations
 12 regarding the program to the 64th legislature.

13 (6) All cultural and intellectual property rights from program efforts remain with the tribe.

14
 15 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Notification to tribal governments.** The secretary of state shall send a
 16 copy of [this act] to each tribal government located on the seven Montana reservations and to the Little Shell
 17 Chippewa tribe.

18
 19 **COORDINATION SECTION. Section 3. Coordination instruction.** If House Bill No. 2 is passed and
 20 approved and does not contain an appropriation to implement the program described in [section 1], then [this act]
 21 is void.

22
 23 **NEW SECTION. Section 4. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

24
 25 **NEW SECTION. Section 5. Termination.** [This act] terminates June 30, 2015.

26 - END -