

One Hundred Ninth Congress of the United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

*Begun and held at the City of Washington on Tuesday,
the third day of January, two thousand and six*

An Act

To amend the Native American Programs Act of 1974 to provide for the revitalization of Native American languages through Native American language immersion programs; and for other purposes.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of
the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Esther Martinez Native American Languages Preservation Act of 2006”.

SEC. 2. EXPANSION OF PROGRAM TO ENSURE THE SURVIVAL AND CONTINUING VITALITY OF NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES.

Section 803C of the Native American Programs Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 2991b–3) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (5) by striking “and” at the end,

(B) in paragraph (6) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”, and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(7)(A) Native American language nests, which are site-based educational programs that—

“(i) provide instruction and child care through the use of a Native American language for at least 10 children under the age of 7 for an average of at least 500 hours per year per student;

“(ii) provide classes in a Native American language for parents (or legal guardians) of students enrolled in a Native American language nest (including Native American language-speaking parents); and

“(iii) ensure that a Native American language is the dominant medium of instruction in the Native American language nest;

“(B) Native American language survival schools, which are site-based educational programs for school-age students that—

“(i) provide an average of at least 500 hours of instruction through the use of 1 or more Native American languages for at least 15 students for whom a Native American language survival school is their principal place of instruction;

“(ii) develop instructional courses and materials for learning Native American languages and for instruction through the use of Native American languages;

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“(iii) provide for teacher training;
“(iv) work toward a goal of all students achieving—
 “(I) fluency in a Native American language;
and
 “(II) academic proficiency in mathematics,
reading (or language arts), and science; and
“(v) are located in areas that have high numbers
or percentages of Native American students; and
“(C) Native American language restoration programs,
which are educational programs that—
 “(i) operate at least 1 Native American language
program for the community in which it serves;
 “(ii) provide training programs for teachers of
Native American languages;
 “(iii) develop instructional materials for the pro-
grams;
 “(iv) work toward a goal of increasing proficiency
and fluency in at least 1 Native American language;
 “(v) provide instruction in at least 1 Native Amer-
ican language; and
 “(vi) may use funds received under this section
for—

 “(I) Native American language programs, such
as Native American language immersion pro-
grams, Native American language and culture
camps, Native American language programs pro-
vided in coordination and cooperation with edu-
cational entities, Native American language pro-
grams provided in coordination and cooperation
with local universities and colleges, Native Amer-
ican language programs that use a master-appren-
tice model of learning languages, and Native Amer-
ican language programs provided through a
regional program to better serve geographically
dispersed students;

 “(II) Native American language teacher
training programs, such as training programs in
Native American language translation for fluent
speakers, training programs for Native American
language teachers, training programs for teachers
in schools to utilize Native American language
materials, tools, and interactive media to teach
Native American language; and

 “(III) the development of Native American lan-
guage materials, such as books, audio and visual
tools, and interactive media programs.”,

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (5) by striking “and” at the end,

(B) in paragraph (6) by striking the period at the
end and inserting “; and”, and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(7) in the case of an application for a grant to carry
out any purpose specified in subsection (b)(7)(B), a certification
by the applicant that the applicant has not less than 3 years
of experience in operating and administering a Native American
language survival school, a Native American language nest,

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or any other educational program in which instruction is conducted in a Native American language.”, and

(3) in subsection (e)(2) by inserting before the period the following: “, except that grants made under such subsection for any purpose specified in subsection (b)(7) may be made only on a 3-year basis”.

SEC. 3. DEFINITION.

Section 815 of the Native American Programs Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 2992c) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (6) as paragraphs (2) through (7), respectively, and

(2) by inserting before paragraph (2), as so redesignated, the following:

“(1) ‘average’ means the aggregate number of hours of instruction through the use of a Native American language to all students enrolled in a native language immersion program during a school year divided by the total number of students enrolled in the immersion program;”.

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR PROGRAM TO ENSURE THE SURVIVAL AND CONTINUING VITALITY OF NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES.

Section 816(e) of the Native American Programs Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 2992d(e)) is amended by striking “1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002” and inserting “2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012”.

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

*Vice President of the United States and
President of the Senate.*