

A-Engrossed
Senate Bill 971

Ordered by the Senate April 18
Including Senate Amendments dated April 18

Sponsored by COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure.

[Directs Commission on Indian Services to study tribes. Requires report to interim committee of Legislative Assembly related to judiciary.]

[Sunsets January 2, 2020.]

Declares that American Indian languages of nine tribes of Oregon are official Oregon heritage languages. Authorizes American Indian tribes to determine needs for and plans to revitalize heritage languages. Directs Department of Education to communicate with American Indian tribes and provide needed assistance and support to American Indian tribes for heritage language revitalization efforts. Defines "American Indian tribe."

Appropriates moneys from General Fund to department for purposes of Act.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to tribes; and declaring an emergency.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. The Legislative Assembly finds and declares that:**

5 (1) **American Indian tribal languages have been spoken since time immemorial and are**
6 **still spoken.**

7 (2) **Oregon's American Indian languages have been interrupted by relocation of American**
8 **Indian tribes to reservations, separation of American Indian tribes, eradication of ancestral**
9 **livelihoods, federal boarding school policies, forced religious conversion and other systemic**
10 **federal policies to assimilate American Indian people into the greater American population.**

11 (3) **American Indian languages are also known as heritage languages and are in different**
12 **stages of revitalization in tribal communities in Oregon.**

13 (4) **Heritage languages are vital and the efforts at revitalization by American Indian**
14 **tribes deserve recognition and support in addition to ORS 329.493 and 342.144.**

15 **SECTION 2. (1) As used in this section and section 1 of this 2019 Act, "American Indian**
16 **tribe" means an Indian tribe as that term is defined in ORS 97.740.**

17 (2) **The Legislative Assembly declares that the American Indian languages of the nine**
18 **tribes of Oregon, as follows, are official Oregon heritage languages:**

19 (a) **Burns Paiute Tribe: Paiute and Wadatika Yaduan.**

20 (b) **The Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians: Miluk, Hanis**
21 **and Sha'yushtl'a.**

22 (c) **The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon: Chinook (Chinuk)**
23 **Wawa.**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (d) The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians: Athabaskan.

2 (e) The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation: Umatilla, Walla Walla
3 and Weyiiletpuu.

4 (f) The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs: Kiksht, Ichishkiin and Numu.

5 (g) Coquille Indian Tribe: Miluk, Athabaskan and Chinuk Wawa.

6 (h) Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians: Takelma.

7 (i) Klamath Tribes: Klamath.

8 (3) Each American Indian tribe of Oregon may determine its needs for and plans to re-
9 vitalize its heritage languages. The Department of Education shall communicate at least
10 once each quarter with each American Indian tribe regarding the needs and plans of each
11 American Indian tribe and shall provide any needed assistance and support to the American
12 Indian tribe, including collaboration in the development of a curriculum with Oregon educa-
13 tors, the establishment of community forums and the creation of learning spaces for the
14 American Indian tribe.

15 **SECTION 3.** There is appropriated to the Department of Education, for the biennium
16 beginning July 1, 2019, out of the General Fund, the amount of \$900,000 for the purpose of
17 carrying out the provisions of section 2 of this 2019 Act.

18 **SECTION 4.** This 2019 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public
19 peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2019 Act takes effect
20 on its passage.

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