

nation of Native American languages and cultures;

(6) there is convincing evidence that student achievement and performance, community and school pride, and educational opportunity is clearly and directly tied to respect for, and support of, the first language of the child or student;

(7) it is clearly in the interests of the United States, individual States, and territories to encourage the full academic and human potential achievements of all students and citizens and to take steps to realize these ends;

(8) acts of suppression and extermination directed against Native American languages and cultures are in conflict with the United States policy of self-determination for Native Americans;

(9) languages are the means of communication for the full range of human experiences and are critical to the survival of cultural and political integrity of any people; and

(10) language provides a direct and powerful means of promoting international communication by people who share languages.

(Pub. L. 101-477, title I, §102, Oct. 30, 1990, 104 Stat. 1153.)

SHORT TITLE

Section 101 of title I of Pub. L. 101-477 provided that: "This title [enacting this chapter] may be cited as the 'Native American Languages Act'."

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in title 20 section 7801.

§ 2902. Definitions

For purposes of this chapter—

(1) The term "Native American" means an Indian, Native Hawaiian, or Native American Pacific Islander.

(2) The term "Indian" has the meaning given to such term under section 7491(3) of title 20.

(3) The term "Native Hawaiian" has the meaning given to such term by section 7517 of title 20.

(4) The term "Native American Pacific Islander" means any descendent of the aboriginal people of any island in the Pacific Ocean that is a territory or possession of the United States.

(5) The terms "Indian tribe" and "tribal organization" have the respective meaning given to each of such terms under section 450b of this title.

(6) The term "Native American language" means the historical, traditional languages spoken by Native Americans.

(7) The term "traditional leaders" includes Native Americans who have special expertise in Native American culture and Native American languages.

(8) The term "Indian reservation" has the same meaning given to the term "reservation" under section 1452 of this title.

(Pub. L. 101-477, title I, §103, Oct. 30, 1990, 104 Stat. 1154; Pub. L. 104-109, §11, Feb. 12, 1996, 110 Stat. 765; Pub. L. 107-110, title VII, §702(f), Jan. 8, 2002, 115 Stat. 1947.)

AMENDMENTS

2002—Par. (2). Pub. L. 107-110, §702(f)(1), substituted "section 7491(3) of title 20" for "section 7881(4) of title 20".

Par. (3). Pub. L. 107-110, §702(f)(2), substituted "section 7517 of title 20" for "section 7912(1) of title 20".

1996—Par. (2). Pub. L. 104-109, §11(1), substituted "section 7881(4) of title 20" for "section 2651(4) of this title".

Par. (3). Pub. L. 104-109, §11(2), substituted "section 7912(1) of title 20" for "section 4909 of title 20".

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2002 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 107-110 effective Jan. 8, 2002, except with respect to certain noncompetitive programs and competitive programs, see section 5 of Pub. L. 107-110, set out as an Effective Date note under section 6301 of Title 20, Education.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in title 20 section 7011.

§ 2903. Declaration of policy

It is the policy of the United States to—

(1) preserve, protect, and promote the rights and freedom of Native Americans to use, practice, and develop Native American languages;

(2) allow exceptions to teacher certification requirements for Federal programs, and programs funded in whole or in part by the Federal Government, for instruction in Native American languages when such teacher certification requirements hinder the employment of qualified teachers who teach in Native American languages, and to encourage State and territorial governments to make similar exceptions;

(3) encourage and support the use of Native American languages as a medium of instruction in order to encourage and support—

(A) Native American language survival,

(B) educational opportunity,

(C) increased student success and performance,

(D) increased student awareness and knowledge of their culture and history, and

(E) increased student and community pride;

(4) encourage State and local education programs to work with Native American parents, educators, Indian tribes, and other Native American governing bodies in the implementation of programs to put this policy into effect;

(5) recognize the right of Indian tribes and other Native American governing bodies to use the Native American languages as a medium of instruction in all schools funded by the Secretary of the Interior;

(6) fully recognize the inherent right of Indian tribes and other Native American governing bodies, States, territories, and possessions of the United States to take action on, and give official status to, their Native American languages for the purpose of conducting their own business;

(7) support the granting of comparable proficiency achieved through course work in a Native American language the same academic credit as comparable proficiency achieved through course work in a foreign language, with recognition of such Native American language proficiency by institutions of higher education as fulfilling foreign language entrance or degree requirements; and