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State of Minnesota HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-SIXTH SESSION HOUSE FILE NO. 1240

March 2, 2009

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Authored by Eken, Persell, Clark, Sailer, Urdahl and others

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on K-12 Education Policy and Oversight April 1, 2009

Committee Recommendation and Adoption of Report:

To Pass as Amended and re-referred to the Committee on Finance

1.1	A bill for an act
1.2	relating to education; establishing a volunteer working group on Native language
1.3	revitalization and preservation; providing for appointments; requiring a report;
1.4	appropriating money.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. <u>VOLUNTEER WORKING GROUP ON DAKOTA AND OJIBWE</u> LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION AND PRESERVATION.

Subdivision 1. Establishment. A volunteer working group is established to develop a unified strategy to revitalize and preserve indigenous languages of the 11 federally recognized American Indian tribes in Minnesota. As the federal government recognized through passage of the Esther Martinez Native American Languages Preservation Act of 2006, the revitalization and preservation of American Indian languages is of vital importance to preserving the American Indian culture. There have been recent efforts in Minnesota to develop programs to teach the Dakota and Ojibwe languages to students and to create fluent speakers at both the kindergarten through grade 12 level and at the postsecondary level. The volunteer working group shall, among other duties, inventory these efforts and make recommendations regarding how to further revitalize and preserve Dakota and Ojibwe languages.

Subd. 2. Membership. The executive director of the Minnesota Indian Affairs

Council shall invite each of the 11 federally recognized tribes under Minnesota Statutes,
section 3.922, subdivision 1, clause (1), to participate by appointing one member of each
tribe to the working group. Three additional members shall be appointed by the Indian

Affairs Council. Two of these members must represent the American Indian population
in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area and one member must represent the American Indian

Section 1.

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should be repealed, modified, or waived, in order to further Dakota and Ojibwe language 2.35 immersion programs; and 2.36

(9) identifying current state and federal law, rules, regulations, and policy that

Dakota and Ojibwe language revitalization and preservation efforts;

2 Section 1.

3.1	(10) assessing the level of interest in the community for Dakota and Ojibwe
3.2	language immersion programs.
3.3	Subd. 4. Administrative support; expenses. The commissioner of education
3.4	shall provide the working group with meeting space and the necessary staff support for
3.5	meetings of the working group. Members of the group are not eligible for compensation
3.6	but may receive reimbursement for their expenses as provided in Minnesota Statutes,
3.7	section 15.059, subdivision 3.
3.8	Subd. 5. Report. The working group must report its findings and recommendations,
3.9	including draft legislation, if necessary, to the Indian Affairs Council and the chairs and
3.10	ranking minority members of the legislative committees and divisions with jurisdiction
3.11	over early childhood through grade 12 education and higher education by February 15,
3.12	2011. The committee expires on February 16, 2011.
3.13	EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.
3.14	Sec. 2. APPROPRIATION.
3.15	\$150,000 is appropriated in fiscal year 2010 from the arts and cultural heritage fund
3.16	to the commissioner of education to promote staff support and expense reimbursement for
3.17	the working group on Dakota and Ojibwe Language Revitalization and Preservation. Any
3.18	balance in fiscal year 2010 is available in fiscal year 2011.

Sec. 2. 3