

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 51st Legislature (2008)

3 HOUSE BILL 2619

By: McPeak

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to schools; recognizing Native  
8 American and Indigenous Languages as a language art;  
9 authorizing the teaching of Native American and  
10 Indigenous Language in public school; authorizing  
11 courses to count as a foreign language credit;  
12 allowing certain qualified teachers to teach certain  
13 language course under certain conditions; stating  
14 legislative intent that Native American and  
15 Indigenous Languages be recognized as a foreign  
16 language by higher education institutions;  
17 authorizing credit for certain language courses;  
18 allowing certain language courses taught in public  
19 school to count for higher education admissions and  
20 graduation requirements; providing for codification;  
21 providing an effective date; and declaring an  
22 emergency.

23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

24 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 11-103.11 of Title 70, unless  
there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

Native American and Indigenous Languages are hereby recognized  
as a language art and may be taught in the public schools of the  
state in educational programs for students. Native American and

1 Indigenous Language classes taught in the public schools may be  
2 counted by a public school in fulfilling elective course offerings  
3 and shall be granted the same credit as a foreign language. For the  
4 purposes of this section, Native American and Indigenous Languages  
5 may be taught in the public schools by any qualified teacher under  
6 the supervision of a certified teacher.

7 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
8 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3208.2 of Title 70, unless there  
9 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

10 It is the intent of the State Legislature that Native American  
11 and Indigenous Languages be recognized as a foreign language. Any  
12 institution in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education may, in  
13 accordance with Section 3208 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes,  
14 offer courses in Native American and Indigenous Languages and grant  
15 credit for the courses in the same manner as provided for other  
16 foreign language courses. Course credit earned by a student for  
17 Native American and Indigenous Language classes taken in the public  
18 schools may be credited by an institution for purposes of meeting  
19 admission or graduation requirements or both admission and  
20 graduation requirements for the institution.

21 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2008.

22 SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
23 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby  
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1 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
2 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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