



SENATE BILL 97: State Advisory Council on Indian Education

2015-2016 General Assembly

Committee:

Introduced by:

Analysis of: S.L. 2015-295

Date:

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Legislative Analyst

SUMMARY: *S.L. 2015-295 changes the composition of the State Advisory Council on Indian Education (Council) as follows:*

- *Clarifies that the two higher education appointments preferably be faculty members, one to be appointed by the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina, and one to be appointed by the State Board of Community Colleges.*
- *Reduces the number of American Indian parents from eight to five, and clarifies that appointed parents must be of students enrolled in the K-12 public schools, including charter schools.*
- *Increases the number of American Indian K-12 public school educators from two to five and requires one member be a director or coordinator of a Title VII Indian Education program under the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The act would define a K-12 educator to include a licensed North Carolina school administrator, classroom teacher, resource teacher, or school counselor.*
- *Recognizes three new tribes or organizations (Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation, Sappony, and Triangle Native American Society) that American Indian members of the Council must be broadly representative of, as well as tribes recognized by the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs.*

Members currently serving on the Council will serve out the remainder of their terms. New members will be appointed under the changes set forth in this act when terms expire or vacancies occur. The act also clarifies references to "Indian" as someone who is an "American Indian."

This act became effective October 29, 2015.

BACKGROUND: In 1988, the State Board of Education (SBE) adopted an Indian education policy to provide a process for identifying issues pertaining to the education of American Indian students in grades K–12. In the same year, the North Carolina General Assembly enacted Article 13A (NCGS § 115C-210 et. seq.) to establish a fifteen member State Advisory Council on Indian Education to serve as the mechanism for advocating on the behalf of American Indian students. Membership consists of American Indian parents and educators, legislative members from the North Carolina Senate and House of Representatives, representatives appointed by the UNC Board of Governors, and the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs.

The Council advises the SBE on issues pertaining to the education of American Indian students. More specifically, the Council is charged with the following duties:

- To advise the SBE on effective educational practices for American Indian students.

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- To explore programs that raise academic achievement and reduces the dropout rate among American Indian students.
- To advise the SBE and the Department of Public Instruction on ways to improve coordination and communication for the benefit of American Indian students affected by state and federal programs administered at the state level.
- To prepare and present an annual report to the SBE, tribal organizations, and to conferees at the annual North Carolina Indian Unity Conference.
- To advise the SBE on any other aspect of American Indian education when requested by the SBE, educators, parents, students, business leaders, and other constituents.