

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: HJM 37

51st Legislature, 1st Session, 2013

Tracking Number: .192084.1

Short Title: Reading Literacy of Indian Children

Sponsor(s): Representatives Rick S. Miera and James Roger Madalena

Analyst: James Ball

Date: February 17, 2013

Bill Summary:

HJM 37 resolves that the Public Education Department (PED) be requested to establish a working relationship with the Save the Children Foundation (SCF) to ensure that reading literacy data for Native American children collected by SCF through the Indian Education Division's (IED) rural literacy initiative (RLI), PED's data collection system (STARS), and accelerated reader literacy programs administered through participating Native American schools by SCF, be aligned and compared with the literacy data collected for students participating in the RLI by PED.

HJM 37 further resolves that PED work jointly with SCF to allow SCF to provide funding necessary to complete the alignment of literacy data for students in RLI with PED's standards-based assessment and common core standards measurements.

Fiscal Impact:

Legislative memorials do not carry appropriations.

Substantive Issues:

According to PED, due to the *Family Education Rights to Privacy Act* (FERPA), SCF has limited access to complete the alignment of literacy data for each student in the RLI with PED's standards-based assessment and common core standards measurements. SCF, therefore, intends to provide funding to PED to complete the alignment of literacy data for each student. PED is concerned, however, that it might not be able to accept outside funding for such services.

Background:

According to the Indian Affairs Department (IAD), SCF is an international nonprofit organization that has delivered services to New Mexico children for over 60 years. SCF has provided funding from private sources for programs focused on:

- nutrition;
- education;
- child-care;
- literacy; and
- family support.

Currently SCF programs focus on literacy-centered school partnerships to improve the reading comprehension and literacy of Native American children in nine partner schools:

- Ashiwi Elementary;
- Church Rock Academy;
- Crownpoint Elementary;
- Cubero Elementary;
- Dowa Yalanne Elementary;
- San Diego Riverside Charter;
- Thoreau Elementary;
- Tohatchi Elementary; and
- Twin Lakes Elementary.

IAD further states that SCF’s literacy programs provide K-8 children with the opportunity to increase their reading achievement by supplying the tools they need to develop reading skills as well as the guidance and support they need to grow as readers. In order to provide additional reading support, staff members work with select groups of struggling readers during the school day to provide tutorials in:

- phonics;
- sight word growth;
- reading comprehension; and
- vocabulary enhancement.

Emergent reader support activities are also available for children in kindergarten and first grade.

Indian Education Act Funding

Beginning in FY 07, the General Fund appropriation for the *Indian Education Act* has directed funding to Save the Children to provide after school and summer literacy block programs for students in grades K-8 in schools with a high proportion of Native American students contingent on receipt of matching funds. The table below summarizes the directed funding and the matching funds that were provided by Save the Children.

Indian Education Funding
(dollars in thousands)

| Fiscal Year | General Fund Appropriation | Funding directed to Teach for America | Funding directed to Save the Children | Save the Children Required Match |
|---------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2004 | \$2,000.0 | | | |
| 2005 | \$2,500.0 | | | |
| 2006 | \$2,500.0 | | | |
| 2007 | \$2,497.4 | | \$1,000.0 | \$500.0 |
| 2008 | \$2,500.0 | | \$500.0 | \$500.0 |
| 2009 | \$2,500.0 | | \$500.0 | \$250.0 |
| 2010 | \$2,250.0 | \$500.0 | \$500.0 | \$500.0 |
| 2011 | \$1,924.6 | \$400.0 | \$400.0 | \$400.0 |
| 2012 | \$1,824.6 | \$400.0 | \$300.0 | \$300.0 |
| 2013 | \$1,824.6 | \$400.0 | \$300.0 | \$300.0 |
| Totals | \$22,321.2 | \$1,700.0 | \$3,500.0 | \$2,750.0 |

LESC - 2/17/13

Committee Referrals:

HEC

Related Bills:

None as of February 17, 2013