

SENATE

STATE OF MINNESOTA

NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

S.F. No. 1404

(SENATE AUTHORS: KUNESH, Cwodzinski and Abeler)		
DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
02/13/2025	388	Introduction and first reading Referred to Education Policy
03/06/2025	642a	Comm report: To pass as amended and re-refer to Education Finance
	674	Author added Abeler See See First Special Session, HF5

1.1

A bill for an act

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relating to education; modifying American Indian mascot exemption requirements;

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establishing a process for schools to apply for mascot replacement assistance;

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appropriating money for mascot replacement assistance; amending Minnesota

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Statutes 2024, section 121A.041, subdivisions 2, 3.

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

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Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 121A.041, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

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Subd. 2. **Prohibition on American Indian mascots.** (a) Starting September 1, 2026, a

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public school may not have or adopt a name, symbol, or image that depicts or refers to an

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American Indian Tribe, individual, custom, or tradition to be used as a mascot, nickname,

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logo, letterhead, or team name of the school, district, or school within the district, unless

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the school has obtained an exemption under subdivision 3.

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(b) The prohibition in paragraph (a) does not apply to a public school located within the

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reservation of a federally recognized Tribal Nation in Minnesota, where at least 95 percent

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of students meet the state definition of American Indian student.

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(c) A school district with a prohibited American Indian mascot according to paragraph

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(a), that has not received an exemption according to subdivision 3, must report to the chairs

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and ranking minority members of the legislative committees having jurisdiction over

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kindergarten through grade 12 education policy and education finance by February 14,

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2025, and again by February 1, 2026, on the district's progress to comply with this section;

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and the district must submit copies of the reports to the Legislative Reference Library. The

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reports must include the following:

(1) confirmation that the district has removed the American Indian mascot, nickname, logo, letterhead, or team name from the district website;

(2) confirmation that the board of the district has approved a new mascot, nickname, logo, letterhead, or team name;

(3) a summary of the district's progress on removing the American Indian mascot, nickname, logo, letterhead, or team name from uniforms, equipment, signs, elements of facilities, and other district items; and

(4) a summary of resources necessary to comply with the prohibition in paragraph (a) and the district's plan to raise and allocate any necessary funds.

**EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective for reports submitted after June 30, 2025.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 121A.041, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Exemption.** A public school may seek an exemption to subdivision 2 by ~~submitting a request in writing to all 11 federally recognized Tribal Nations in Minnesota and to the Tribal Nations Education Committee by September 1, 2023. The exemption is denied if any of the 11 Tribal Nations or the Tribal Nations Education Committee oppose the exemption by December 15, 2023~~ requesting a letter of consent from the Tribal Nation located nearest to the public school. A public school whose request for ~~an exemption~~ consent from a Tribal Nation is denied must comply with subdivision 2 ~~by September 1, 2026.~~

**EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Sec. 3. **APPROPRIATION; MASCOT REPLACEMENT ASSISTANCE.**

Subdivision 1. **Department of Education.** The sum indicated in this section is appropriated from the general fund to the Department of Education in the fiscal year designated.

Subd. 2. **Mascot replacement assistance.** (a) For assistance to public schools seeking to comply with Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.041:

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(b) The commissioner of education must establish a process for a public school to apply to the commissioner for reimbursement of costs incurred to meet the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.041, subdivision 2, including the costs of replacing a prohibited name, symbol, or image on uniforms, signs, paintings, equipment, gym floors,

3.1 websites, and other school property, including supplies and other building surfaces. The  
3.2 application must be in the form and manner determined by the commissioner.

3.3 (c) For costs incurred after June 30, 2024, but before July 1, 2025, the commissioner  
3.4 may reimburse up to 100 percent of the public school's costs.

3.5 (d) For costs incurred after June 30, 2025, the costs must be included in a work plan and  
3.6 budget submitted by the public school to the commissioner and approved by the  
3.7 commissioner to be eligible for reimbursement. The commissioner may reimburse up to  
3.8 100 percent of the costs under this paragraph.

3.9 (e) This is a onetime appropriation and is available until June 30, 2027.