

**SB 971 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Judiciary**

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**Action Date:** 04/08/19

**Action:** Do pass with amendments and requesting referral to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Engrossed.)

**Vote:** 7-0-0-0

**Yeas:** 7 - Bentz, Fagan, Gelser, Linthicum, Manning Jr, Prozanski, Thatcher

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

**Prepared By:** Channa Newell, Counsel

**Meeting Dates:** 4/8

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Declares specific languages of the nine federally recognized tribes of Oregon as official heritage languages. Allows tribes to develop plans for revitalization of heritage languages. Requires Department of Education to provide support and assistance in carrying out plans, including regular communication, collaboration on curricula with Oregon educators, and the development of community spaces and learning spaces. Appropriates \$900,000 from General Fund. Makes findings. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Examples of tribal languages
- Cultural connection with heritage language
- Loss of fluent native speakers
- Need for revitalization and preservation of languages

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

Replaces the measure.

**BACKGROUND:**

Oregon is home to nine federally recognized tribes, each a sovereign entity with distinct and unique histories, cultural traditions, and languages. The nine tribes are: the Burns Paiute Tribe; the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw; the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs; the Coquille Indian Tribe; the Klamath Tribes; the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians; the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla; the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde; and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz.

Senate Bill 971 A names 16 separate heritage languages spoken by the nine federally recognized tribes and requires the Department of Education to provide any needed assistance and support to each of the tribes to revitalize the languages. Support includes collaboration on curriculum development, establishment of community forums, and creation of learning spaces. The measure appropriates \$900,000 from the General Fund to carry out the measure.