HOUSE ENROLLED ACT No. 1308

AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning education.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

SECTION 1. IC 20-10.2-2-3.7 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2004]: Sec. 3.7. "Committee" refers to the committee that develops the strategic and continuous school improvement and achievement plan under IC 20-10.2-3.

SECTION 2. IC 20-10.2-2-3.8 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2004]: Sec. 3.8. "Cultural competency" means a system of congruent behaviors, attitudes, and policies that enables teachers to work effectively in cross-cultural situations. The term includes the use of knowledge concerning individuals and groups to develop specific standards, policies, practices, and attitudes to be used in appropriate cultural settings to increase students’ educational performance.

SECTION 3. IC 20-10.2-2-9.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2004]: Sec. 9.5. "Professional standards board" refers to the board established by IC 20-1-1.4.

SECTION 4. IC 20-10.2-8 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2004]:

Chapter 8. Cultural Competency in Educational Environments
Sec. 1. (a) The professional standards board, in consultation with the department, shall develop guidelines for use by accredited teacher training institutions and departments in preparing individuals to teach in various environments.

(b) The guidelines developed under subsection (a) must include courses and methods that assist individuals in developing cultural competency.

Sec. 2. The department, in consultation with the professional standards board, shall develop and make available to school corporations and nonpublic schools materials that assist teachers, administrators, and staff in a school in developing cultural competency for use in providing professional and staff development programs.

Sec. 3. (a) In developing a school's strategic and continuous school improvement and achievement plan under IC 20-10.2-3, the school's committee shall consider methods to improve the cultural competency of the school's teachers, administrators, staff, parents, and students.

(b) The committee shall:

(1) identify the racial, ethnic, language-minority, cultural, exceptional learning, and socioeconomic groups that are included in the school's student population;

(2) incorporate culturally appropriate strategies for increasing educational opportunities and educational performance for each group in the school's plan; and

(3) recommend areas in which additional professional development is necessary to increase cultural competency in the school's educational environment.

(c) The committee shall update annually the information identified under subsection (b)(1).
Speaker of the House of Representatives

President of the Senate

President Pro Tempore

Approved: ____________________________

Governor of the State of Indiana