Executive Summary: Staff will present the status of those legislative measures on which the Commission has adopted a position and those of interest to the Commission.

Recommended Action: For information only

Presenter: Erin Sullivan, Consultant, Office of Governmental Relations

Strategic Plan Goal

III Communication and Engagement
d) Advise the Governor, Legislature, and other policy makers regarding issues affecting the quality, preparation, certification, and discipline of the education workforce.
Status of Legislation

The Status of Legislation agenda item is brought to the Commission to provide updates on the status of bills on which the Commission has taken a position and on the Commission’s sponsored bills. Bill updates are listed according to the position adopted by the Commission on each bill.

Support

AB 163 (Williams) Teaching credential: American Indian language-culture credential
As Amended: March 16, 2015
Status: Passed by Assembly Committee on Education (3/26/2015) and referred to Assembly Committee on Appropriations. Not yet set for hearing.

Summary: Existing law requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC), upon recommendation by a tribal government of a federally recognized Indian tribe in California, to issue an American Indian Languages Credential to a candidate who has demonstrated fluency in that tribal language, passed a criminal background check and submitted an application and fee. This bill would additionally require the CTC, upon recommendation by a tribal government of a federally recognized Indian tribe in California, to issue an American Indian language-culture credential with an American Indian language authorization, an American Indian culture authorization, or both.

AB 163 would authorize individuals who demonstrate an understanding of Native American culture, as specified, to teach American Indian Culture in public schools. Modeled after Wisconsin statutes, this bill would institute the following provisions:

- Upon recommendation of the tribal government of a federally recognized Indian tribe in California, require the CTC to issue an American Indian Culture Authorization to a candidate who meets the following requirements:
  - Demonstrated understanding of American Indian culture based on an assessment developed and administered by the recommending federally recognized Indian tribe
  - Successfully completed a criminal background check for credentialing purposes
  - Submitted an application, fee and recommendation for the credential to the Commission through the federally recognized Indian tribe
- Allows for Authorizations in both American Indian Languages and Culture for candidates who qualify for both Authorizations
- For candidates who have already received an American Indian Languages Credential under prior legislation, allows the tribe that recommended the candidate for the American Indian Languages Credential to determine if the candidate may add the American Indian Culture Authorization to the preexisting Languages Credential, or if the candidate must reapply for the American Indian Culture Authorization as a new initial credential
As with the credential with the Language Authorization, the credential with the Culture Authorization would be issued initially for a two-year period and renewed for an additional three-year period upon recommendation of the tribal government (unless added to an existing American Indian Languages Credential). After the three-year period, the credential holder would be eligible for a clear credential with the Culture Authorization upon application and the recommendation of the tribal government, in consultation with the applicant’s public school employer. Holders of the Authorization would be prohibited from teaching any other subject area in the public schools unless they also hold a “valid teaching credential issued by the State of California.”

Each federally recognized American Indian tribe would be encouraged to develop a written and oral assessment that should be successfully completed before an applicant is recommended for an American Indian Culture Authorization. The assessment method and content would be developed by each federally recognized Indian tribe based upon the following determinations:

- Demonstrated understanding of culture and its practices, including, without limitation, rituals and tradition, social institutions and relationships, holidays and festivals, health practices and traditions, patterns of work and leisure and culinary traditions and practices
- The standard of knowledge required to qualify for an American Indian Culture Credential in that tribal culture
- Standards for effective teaching methods to be evaluated in the classroom

Upon agreement by the tribe, each tribe recommending a candidate for an American Indian Culture Authorization would develop and administer a technical assistance program guided by the California Standards for the Teaching Profession. The program could include direct classroom observation and consultation, assistance in instructional planning and preparation, support in implementation and delivery of classroom instruction, and other assistance intended to enhance the professional performance and development of the American Indian Culture teacher.

Public school personnel, responsible for evaluating teachers in accordance with local governing board policy, would be required to provide individuals employed to teach on the basis of the American Indian Culture Authorization with information on the teaching personnel evaluation process and with information on the California Standards for the Teaching Profession.

**Summary of Amendments:** The March 16 amendments to this bill included changing all references to the credential from languages-culture to language-culture, and replacing the word ritual with ceremonies.
2015-16 Legislation of Interest

In order to provide the most current information on bills of interest to the Commission, staff will prepare Legislation of Interest as an agenda insert.