

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1344

To provide training and technical assistance to Native Americans who are interested in commercial vehicle driving careers.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 2, 2001

Mr. CAMPBELL introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs

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## A BILL

To provide training and technical assistance to Native Americans who are interested in commercial vehicle driving careers.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Native American Com-  
5       mercial Driving Training and Technical Assistance Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

7       (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-  
8       ings:

9               (1) Despite the availability of abundant natural  
10       resources on Indian lands and a rich cultural legacy

1       that accords great value to self-determination, self-  
2       reliance, and independence, Native Americans suffer  
3       higher rates of unemployment, poverty, poor health,  
4       substandard housing, and associated social ills than  
5       those of any other group in the United States.

6           (2) The United States has an obligation to as-  
7       sist Indian tribes with the creation of appropriate  
8       economic and political conditions.

9           (3) The economic success and material well-  
10      being of Native American communities depends on  
11      the combined efforts of the Federal Government,  
12      tribal governments, the private sector, and individ-  
13      uals.

14          (4) Two tribally controlled community colleges,  
15      D–Q University in the State of California and Fort  
16      Peck Community College in the State of Montana,  
17      currently offer commercial vehicle driving programs.

18          (5) The American Trucking Association reports  
19      that at least until the year 2005, the trucking indus-  
20      try will need to hire 403,000 truck drivers each year  
21      to fill empty positions.

22          (6) According to the Federal Government Occu-  
23      pational Handbook the commercial driving industry  
24      is expected to increase about as fast as the average  
25      for all occupations through the year 2008 as the

1 economy grows and the amount of freight carried by  
2 trucks increases.

3 (7) A career in commercial vehicle driving of-  
4 fers a competitive salary, employment benefits, job  
5 security, and a profession.

6 (b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act—

7 (1) to foster and promote job creation and eco-  
8 nomic opportunities for Native Americans; and

9 (2) to provide education, technical, and training  
10 assistance to Native Americans who are interested in  
11 a commercial vehicle driving career.

12 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

13 In this Act:

14 (1) COMMERCIAL VEHICLE DRIVING.—The term  
15 “commercial vehicle driving” means the driving of a  
16 vehicle which is a tractor-trailer truck.

17 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
18 the Secretary of Labor.

19 **SEC. 4. COMMERCIAL VEHICLE DRIVING TRAINING PRO-**  
20 **GRAM.**

21 (a) GRANTS.—The Secretary may award 4 grants, on  
22 a competitive basis, to eligible entities to support pro-  
23 grams providing training and certificates leading to the  
24 professional development of individuals with respect to  
25 commercial vehicle driving.

1 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant  
 2 under subsection (a), an entity shall—

3 (1) be a tribally-controlled community college or  
 4 university (as defined in section 2 of the Tribally-  
 5 Controlled Community College or University Assist-  
 6 ance Act of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 1801)); and

7 (2) prepare and submit to the Secretary an ap-  
 8 plication at such time, in such manner, and con-  
 9 taining such information as the Secretary may re-  
 10 quire.

11 (c) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under subsection  
 12 (a), the Secretary shall give priority to—

13 (1) grant applications that propose training  
 14 that exceeds the United States Department of  
 15 Transportation’s Proposed Minimum Standards for  
 16 Training Tractor-Trailer Drivers; and

17 (2) grant applications that propose training  
 18 that exceeds the entry level truck driver certification  
 19 standards set by the Professional Truck Driver In-  
 20 stitute.

21 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
 22 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be  
 23 necessary to carry out the Act.

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