

SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

S.F. No. 1627

(SENATE AUTHORS: KUNESH)
DATE
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OFFICIAL STATUS
Introduction and first reading
Referred to Judiciary and Public Safety

1.1A bill for an act

1.2relating to corrections; revising American Indian cultural programming services;

1.3amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 241.80.

1.4BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 241.80, is amended to read:

1.6241.80 AMERICAN INDIAN CULTURAL PROGRAM.

1.7Subdivision 1. **Authority.** The commissioner of corrections shall develop a policy to

1.8provide the cultural programming services listed in subdivision 2 to American Indian inmates

1.9incarcerated individuals of all juvenile and adult state correctional facilities and

1.10community-based correctional programs. The commissioner may, within the limits of

1.11available money, contract with appropriate American Indian private, nonprofit organizations

1.12to provide the cultural programming services.

1.13Subd. 2. **Cultural programming services.** The policy shall include, but need not be

1.14limited to, providing, within the limits of available money, spiritual and cultural programming

1.15services having the following purposes:

1.16(1) the teaching of good work habits and the development of motivation through work

1.17education and training needed for postincarceration self-sufficiency;

1.18(2) the development of cultural pride to improve strengthened American Indian self-image

1.19identity;

1.20(3) the development of an understanding of and an adjustment to the cultural differences

1.21between American Indians and other ethnic groups;

2.1 (3) improved understanding of American Indian culture, traditions, and spiritual practices
2.2 for Department of Corrections staff;

2.3 ~~(4) the development of attitudes of mutual trust, respect, and understanding among~~
2.4 ~~American Indian family members~~ partnerships with Tribal Nations to address the unique
2.5 needs of American Indian incarcerated persons and promote approaches to rehabilitation
2.6 specific to this population;

2.7 ~~(5) the fostering of increased availability of medicine men and American Indian spiritual~~
2.8 ~~leaders to teach American Indian inmates~~ incarcerated individuals about American Indian
2.9 ~~history, cultural sensitivity, and religion~~ and spiritual practices;

2.10 (6) the involvement of American Indian ~~inmates~~ incarcerated individuals in those aspects
2.11 of the correctional system that will aid in their rehabilitation; and

2.12 (7) the provision of services to American Indian ~~inmates~~ incarcerated individuals that
2.13 will facilitate their reentry into the community.