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HOUSE BILL 1517

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State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Schual-Berke, Priest, McDermott, Anderson, Quall, Kenney, Roberts, Lantz, Kagi, Moeller, Santos, Hunt and Hudgins

Read first time 01/22/2007. Referred to Committee on Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to enhancing world language instruction in public  
2 schools; adding new sections to chapter 28A.300 RCW; and creating a new  
3 section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that Washington  
6 state:

7            (a) Is one of the most trade-dependent states in the United States,  
8 where one in three jobs is directly connected to trade;

9            (b) Benefits from a thriving tourist trade;

10           (c) Encourages cultural understanding and tolerance for its  
11 citizens; and

12           (d) Seeks a world-class education system.

13           (2) The legislature further finds that there is a current lack of  
14 leadership and commitment at the state level to improve world language  
15 instruction so that our students can secure their part in the global  
16 community and remain competitive in the world.

17           NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300  
18 RCW to read as follows:

1 The superintendent of public instruction shall assign at least one  
2 full-time equivalent staff position within the office of the  
3 superintendent of public instruction to serve as the world language  
4 supervisor. The world language supervisor shall have the following  
5 duties and responsibilities:

6 (1) Develop, conduct, and oversee professional development for  
7 teachers on grade level expectations, state and national standards, and  
8 best practices in instruction for world languages;

9 (2) Provide technical assistance to schools in designing elementary  
10 and middle school language programs, selecting and designing high  
11 quality curriculum, and providing professional development;

12 (3) Advise in the development of online world language courses;

13 (4) Create a clearinghouse of information and materials to support  
14 high quality world language instruction at the elementary and secondary  
15 levels;

16 (5) Secure and implement grants, including federal grants, to  
17 enhance world language programs;

18 (6) Encourage and foster an articulated curriculum for world  
19 languages through elementary, secondary, and postsecondary grades;

20 (7) Establish and maintain a state database for world language  
21 course offerings in schools and school districts;

22 (8) Implement memoranda of understanding with ministries of  
23 education in other countries, including interviewing, selecting,  
24 securing visas for, and providing orientation for visiting teachers;

25 (9) Serve in an advisory capacity on committees or work groups  
26 regarding teacher certification, advanced placement programs, and  
27 textbook publishing and selection; and

28 (10) Serve as an education liaison with the business, trade, and  
29 economic development communities.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300  
31 RCW to read as follows:

32 (1) Subject to the availability of funds appropriated for this  
33 purpose, the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
34 allocate grants, based on a competitive application process, for pilot  
35 projects to enhance instruction in world languages at the elementary  
36 and middle school level.

1           (2) At least one of the pilot projects shall implement a dual  
2 language enrichment program using a major Asian language and English as  
3 the dual languages. A dual language enrichment program is one where  
4 all students in the class receive instruction in both languages,  
5 spending approximately one-half of the class day learning in one  
6 language and the other half of the school day learning in the other  
7 language.

8           (3) At least one of the pilot projects shall implement a  
9 technology-enhanced instructional model where instruction in a major  
10 Asian language, preferably by a native speaker, is provided through a  
11 combination of the K-20 telecommunications network, other online  
12 technology, and supplemental direct instruction by the classroom  
13 teacher.

14           (4) At the end of the grant period, the office of the  
15 superintendent of public instruction shall evaluate the outcomes,  
16 successes, and limitations of the pilot projects as strategies to  
17 enhance world language instruction in public schools and report its  
18 findings to the education committees of the legislature at the first  
19 legislative session after the end of the grant period.

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