
HOUSE BILL 3034

State of Washington

56th Legislature

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By Representatives Kenney, McIntire, Rockefeller, Cox, Van Luven, Keiser, Constantine, Edmonds, Edwards, Kagi, Haigh and Santos

Read first time 01/26/2000. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to foreign language instruction; and creating new
2 sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The world economy is rapidly integrating
5 peoples and cultures from all over the globe. Washington's population
6 is more diverse than ever, and getting more so all the time. As
7 diversity increases in Washington, the most trade-dependent state, and
8 as social and cultural ties around the world grow, strengthen, and
9 deepen, what it will take for our children to successfully live, learn,
10 and work in the future and to live productive and satisfying lives is
11 changing.

12 Our children deserve every opportunity for success in school, at
13 work, and throughout their lives. Having proficiency in a language in
14 addition to English is necessary for our children to realize their
15 fullest academic, economic, personal, and cultural potential.

16 Understanding and appreciation of other world cultures is an
17 essential part of being a fully prepared and responsible citizen of the
18 United States or any other country in the twenty-first century and
19 beyond.

1 Children learn a second language much more readily before puberty
2 and gain the strongest grasp of a second language through sustained
3 study and use over a long period of time. Therefore, the legislature
4 intends to determine the feasibility of developing and implementing
5 high quality world language instruction opportunities in public
6 elementary schools and of providing all students with access to high
7 quality world language instruction within articulated sequences of
8 courses and programs that extend from kindergarten through the twelfth
9 grade.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The superintendent of public instruction
11 shall conduct a study of the feasibility of implementing in every
12 school district high quality foreign language instruction programs
13 consisting of articulated sequences of courses extending from
14 kindergarten through twelfth grade. The study shall also explore:

15 (1) The creation of high school graduation requirements related to
16 attainment of proficiency in a language other than English;

17 (2) The integration of foreign language instruction programs with
18 the state's education reforms, including but not limited to:

19 (a) The development of language-specific and nonlanguage-specific
20 academic standards for foreign language study;

21 (b) Development and implementation of performance-based assessments
22 for measuring foreign language proficiency attainment;

23 (c) The accountability system already in place and the additional
24 elements of the accountability system being developed by the academic
25 achievement and accountability commission and others; and

26 (d) Strategies for including local control for school districts to
27 allow for local selection of the language or languages in which
28 instruction may be offered;

29 (3) The potential for linking bilingual and English-as-a-second-
30 language programs with programs providing instruction in a language
31 other than English for native-English speaking students;

32 (4) Strategies for providing qualified foreign language teachers in
33 numbers sufficient to enable all school districts to give all students
34 access to high quality articulated sequences of courses and programs of
35 foreign language instruction extending from kindergarten through grade
36 twelve, including but not limited to:

37 (a) The potential role of heritage schools in helping provide
38 qualified teachers;

1 (b) The challenges facing teacher preparation programs in providing
2 greater capacity for training enough qualified foreign language
3 teachers, especially at the elementary grade levels, and how those
4 challenges may be overcome; and

5 (c) The potential for temporary, limited, or alternative
6 certification to provide increased numbers of individuals prepared to
7 teach foreign languages;

8 (5) The costs and benefits of implementing programs of foreign
9 language instruction of the kind described in section 1 of this act and
10 of creating foreign language high school graduation requirements; and

11 (6) Other issues the superintendent or the advisory committee deem
12 relevant to determining the feasibility of implementing foreign
13 language programs as described in this act.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The superintendent shall appoint an advisory
15 committee and shall work closely with members of such committee through
16 the entire conduct of the study and development of the report required
17 under this act. The committee shall include, but not be limited to,
18 foreign language teachers and representatives of school districts,
19 institutions of higher education, the business community, and parents.
20 The superintendent shall strive to appoint an advisory committee that
21 is reflective of the diversity of Washington's population and includes
22 all regions of the state.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The superintendent shall report the findings
24 of the study to the governor, the state board of education, and the
25 education and higher education committees of the house of
26 representatives and senate by December 15, 2001.

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