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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 4223

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State of Washington                      52nd Legislature                      1991 Regular Session

By Representatives Fuhrman and Nealey.

Read first time February 20, 1991. Referred to Committee on State Government.

1            WHEREAS, English is the common language of the people of the United  
2 States of America and the state of Washington, this article is intended  
3 to preserve, protect, strengthen, and perpetuate the English language,  
4 and not to supersede any of the rights guaranteed to the people by this  
5 Constitution.

6            BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
7 THE STATE OF WASHINGTON, IN LEGISLATIVE SESSION ASSEMBLED:

8            THAT, At the next general election to be held in this state there  
9 shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the state for their  
10 approval and ratification, or rejection, an amendment to the  
11 Constitution of the state of Washington by adding a new article to read  
12 as follows:

13            Article ..., section 1. English is the official language of the  
14 state of Washington.

1 Article ..., section 2. The legislature shall enforce this article  
2 by appropriate legislation. The legislature and officials of the state  
3 of Washington shall take all steps necessary to ensure that the English  
4 language and the role it has played as the common language of the state  
5 of Washington are preserved, protected, strengthened, and perpetuated.  
6 The legislature shall make no law which diminishes or ignores the  
7 English language or the role it has played as the common language of  
8 the state of Washington.

9 Article ..., section 3. Any person who is a resident of or doing  
10 business in the state of Washington shall have standing to sue the  
11 state of Washington to enforce this article, and the courts of record  
12 of the state of Washington shall have jurisdiction to hear cases  
13 brought to enforce this article. The legislature may provide  
14 reasonable and appropriate limitations on the time and manner of suits  
15 brought under this article.

16 Article ..., section 4. If any provision of this article, or the  
17 application of any such provision to any person or circumstance is held  
18 invalid, the remainder of the article or the application of the  
19 provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause  
21 notice of the foregoing constitutional amendment to be published at  
22 least four times during the four weeks next preceding the election in  
23 every legal newspaper in the state.