
SENATE BILL 5954

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senators Shin, Roach, Oke, Costa, Patterson, Hargrove, T. Sheldon, Hochstatter, Eide and Jacobsen

Read first time 02/09/2001. Referred to Committee on State & Local Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to obsolete racial terminology; amending RCW
2 35.22.650; adding a new section to chapter 1.20 RCW; creating new
3 sections; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the use of the
6 term "Oriental" when used to refer to persons of Asian descent is
7 outdated and pejorative. There is a need to make clear that the term
8 "Asian" is preferred terminology, and that this more modern and
9 nonpejorative term must be used to replace outdated terminology.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 1.20 RCW
11 to read as follows:

12 (1) As of July 1, 2001, all state and local government statutes,
13 codes, rules, regulations, and other official documents are required to
14 use the term "Asian" when referring to persons of Asian descent. The
15 use of the term "Oriental" is prohibited.

16 (2) The legislature urges all state and local entities to review
17 their statutes, codes, rules, regulations, and other official documents

1 and revise them to omit the use of the term "Oriental" when referring
2 to persons of Asian descent.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** All references to "Oriental medicine," and
4 other similar terms referencing alternative medical practices, are
5 exempt from the requirements of section 2(1) of this act until July 1,
6 2002. By January 1, 2002, the commission on Asian Pacific American
7 affairs, the Washington association of acupuncturists, and other
8 interested stakeholders must submit a report to the legislature that
9 provides guidelines and substitute language for references to "Oriental
10 medicine" for state and local government statutes, codes, rules,
11 regulations, and other official documents.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The economic assistance authority must
13 revise WAC 175-16-030 and replace the term "Oriental" with "Asian."

14 **Sec. 5.** RCW 35.22.650 and 1975 1st ex.s. c 56 s 4 are each amended
15 to read as follows:

16 All contracts by and between a first class city and contractors for
17 any public work or improvement exceeding the sum of ten thousand
18 dollars, or fifteen thousand dollars for construction of water mains,
19 shall contain the following clause:

20 "Contractor agrees that ((he)) the contractor shall actively
21 solicit the employment of minority group members. Contractor further
22 agrees that ((he)) the contractor shall actively solicit bids for the
23 subcontracting of goods or services from qualified minority businesses.
24 Contractor shall furnish evidence of ((his)) the contractor's
25 compliance with these requirements of minority employment and
26 solicitation. Contractor further agrees to consider the grant of
27 subcontracts to said minority bidders on the basis of substantially
28 equal proposals in the light most favorable to said minority
29 businesses. The contractor shall be required to submit evidence of
30 compliance with this section as part of the bid."

31 As used in this section, the term "minority business" means a
32 business at least fifty-one percent of which is owned by minority group
33 members. Minority group members include, but are not limited to,
34 blacks, women, native Americans, ((Orientals)) Asians, Eskimos, Aleuts,
35 and Spanish Americans.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This act is necessary for the immediate
2 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
3 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
4 July 1, 2001.

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