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HOUSE BILL 2535

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State of Washington

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By Representatives Veloria, Foreman, Shin, King, Conway, G. Cole, Pruitt, Wineberry, Caver, Chappell, Anderson, Orr, Brown, Wang, Leonard and J. Kohl

Read first time 01/17/94. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to transitional bilingual education; and amending  
2 RCW 28A.180.010, 28A.180.030, and 28A.180.040.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.180.010 and 1990 c 33 s 163 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 RCW 28A.180.010 through 28A.180.080 shall be known and cited as  
7 "The Transitional Bilingual Instruction Act." The legislature finds  
8 that there are large numbers of children who come from homes where the  
9 primary language is other than English. The legislature finds that a  
10 transitional bilingual education program can meet the needs of these  
11 children. Pursuant to the policy of this state to insure equal  
12 educational opportunity to every child in this state, it is the purpose  
13 of RCW 28A.180.010 through 28A.180.080 to provide for the  
14 implementation of transitional bilingual education programs in the  
15 public schools, and to provide supplemental financial assistance to  
16 school districts to meet the extra costs of these programs. It is also  
17 the intent of the legislature to provide these children with full  
18 access to the curriculum offered in public schools by teaching both

1 English and academic content using language and methods that are  
2 comprehensible to the students.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.180.030 and 1990 c 33 s 164 are each amended to  
4 read as follows:

5 As used in RCW 28A.180.010 through 28A.180.080, unless the context  
6 thereof indicates to the contrary:

7 (1) "Transitional bilingual instruction" means:

8 (a) A system of instruction which uses two languages, one of which  
9 is English, as a means of instruction to build upon and expand language  
10 skills to enable the pupil to achieve competency in English and learn  
11 academic content while learning English. Concepts and information are  
12 introduced in the primary language and reinforced in the second  
13 language: PROVIDED, That the program shall include English as a second  
14 language instruction and testing in the subject matter in English; or

15 (b) In those cases in which the use of two languages is not  
16 practicable as established by the superintendent of public instruction  
17 and unless otherwise prohibited by law, an alternative system of  
18 instruction which ((~~may~~)) shall include English as a second language  
19 and is designed to enable the pupil to achieve competency in English.  
20 The alternative system of instruction shall include primary language  
21 support, if practicable, as established by the superintendent of public  
22 instruction.

23 The instruction of eligible pupils shall not suppress their skills  
24 in languages other than English, or their cultural identity or  
25 heritage.

26 (2) "Primary language" means the language most often used by the  
27 student for communication in his/her home.

28 (3) "Eligible pupil" means any enrollee of the school district  
29 whose primary language is other than English and whose ((~~English~~  
30 ~~language~~)) skills in speaking, reading, or writing English are  
31 sufficiently deficient or absent to impair learning.

32 (4) "Primary language support" means using the language most often  
33 used by an eligible pupil in his or her home to provide the pupil with  
34 access to the school's curriculum.

35 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.180.040 and 1984 c 124 s 3 are each amended to  
36 read as follows:

37 Every school district board of directors shall:

1 (1) Make available to each eligible pupil transitional bilingual  
2 instruction to achieve competency in English, in accord with rules of  
3 the superintendent of public instruction.

4 (2) Wherever feasible, ensure that communications to parents  
5 emanating from the schools shall be appropriately bilingual for those  
6 parents of pupils in the bilingual instruction program.

7 (3) Determine, by administration of an English test approved by the  
8 superintendent of public instruction the number of eligible pupils  
9 enrolled in the school district at the beginning of a school year and  
10 thereafter during the year as necessary in individual cases. If,  
11 however, a preliminary interview indicates little or no English  
12 speaking ability, eligibility testing shall not be necessary.

13 (4) Before the conclusion of each school year, measure each  
14 eligible pupil's improvement in learning the English language by means  
15 of a test and any other alternative assessment approved by the  
16 superintendent of public instruction.

17 (5) ~~((Provide))~~ Require in-service training for teachers,  
18 counselors, and other staff ~~((7))~~ who ~~((are involved in the district's~~  
19 ~~transitional bilingual program))~~ provide instruction, counseling, or  
20 language assistance services to eligible pupils. Such training shall  
21 include instruction in second language acquisition, appropriate  
22 instructional strategies for children of culturally different  
23 backgrounds, use of curriculum materials, and program models.

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