

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## ESB 5954

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As Passed Senate, February 8, 2002

**Title:** An act relating to obsolete racial terminology.

**Brief Description:** Updating obsolete language.

**Sponsors:** Senators Shin, Roach, Oke, Costa, Patterson, Hargrove, T. Sheldon, Hochstatter, Eide and Jacobsen.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** State & Local Government: 2/26/01, 3/5/01 [DP].

Passed Senate: 3/12/01, 49-0; 2/8/02, 43-4.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**Majority Report:** Do pass.

Signed by Senators Patterson, Chair; Fairley, Vice Chair; Gardner, Hale, Haugen, Horn, Kline, Roach, T. Sheldon and Swecker.

**Staff:** Diane Smith (786-7410)

**Background:** Current laws refer to people of Asian ancestry as "Oriental."

**Summary of Bill:** The term "Asian" shall be used in all statutes, codes, rules, regulations, and other official documents. Use of the term "Oriental" is prohibited.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect on July 1, 2002.

**Testimony For:** The term "Oriental" is pejorative and refers to persons of Asian descent from a western perspective.

**Testimony Against:** None.

**Testified:** PRO: Doris Watanabe; Milaska Nguyen; Miebeth Bonstillo-Hutchins, Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs.

**House Amendment(s):** The use of the term "Asian" is to begin with all official documents enacted after July 1, 2002. The term Spanish Americans in existing law is changed to "Hispanics."