

---

HOUSE BILL 1970

---

State of Washington                      58th Legislature                      2003 Regular Session

By Representatives Schual-Berke, Cox, Talcott, Anderson, Veloria,  
Skinner, McDermott, Sullivan, Kagi, Quall and Haigh

Read first time 02/18/2003. Referred to Committee on Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to world languages; adding a new section to chapter  
2 28A.300 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

5            (1) Washington, one of the most trade-dependent states in the  
6 country, is the fifth largest exporter in the United States;

7            (2) Washington is the second leading exporter to mainland China and  
8 Singapore and the third leading exporter to Japan, Germany, the United  
9 Kingdom, Korea, and Taiwan;

10           (3) Washington is the second leading exporter to Africa, the third  
11 leading exporter to Asia, and the fourth leading exporter to the  
12 European Union;

13           (4) One in five employed persons in the state works in an  
14 occupation or profession associated with international trade;

15           (5) Washington's increasing reliance on international trade makes  
16 it imperative that the state increase the number of its citizens who  
17 are fluent in languages other than English and who understand the  
18 culture and customs of other countries.

1       The legislature intends to increase the attention of the K-12  
2 system on the importance of world language instruction by  
3 reestablishing the position of world language specialist at the office  
4 of the superintendent of public instruction.

5       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7       The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall assign  
8 at least one-half of a full-time equivalent employee to help school  
9 districts in their efforts to offer world language instruction in the  
10 state's public schools. The employee's responsibilities may include,  
11 but are not limited to:

12       (1) The establishment and maintenance of a central data base for  
13 world language programs statewide;

14       (2) Provision of information to teachers and school districts on  
15 world language instruction best practices;

16       (3) Assistance to teachers and school districts for new or current  
17 world language programs, including program continuity;

18       (4) Assistance to districts through coordination of language  
19 programs throughout the state;

20       (5) Maintenance of contact with business interests to help school  
21 districts align language course offerings with emerging job  
22 requirements; and

23       (6) Subject to funding, offering classes to language teachers on  
24 communicative language teaching.

25       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 3.** The one-half of a full-time equivalent  
26 employee under section 2 of this act shall be assigned from one of the  
27 existing full-time equivalent employees that is available to the agency  
28 on June 30, 2003.

--- END ---