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HOUSE BILL 3071

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State of Washington                      58th Legislature                      2004 Regular Session

By Representatives Veloria, Chase and Upthegrove

Read first time 01/27/2004. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to creating a vocational English as a second  
2 language program; adding a new section to chapter 28B.50 RCW; adding a  
3 new section to chapter 28C.18 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

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

6            (1) The fastest growing component of Washington's population is  
7 residents whose primary language is not English. For example,  
8 Washington's Hispanic population is expected to grow by one hundred  
9 fifty percent by the year 2030;

10           (2) Hispanics and other English as a second language residents have  
11 the lowest high school and college participation and completion rates  
12 in Washington's population;

13           (3) A considerable body of research indicates that contextual  
14 learning directly related to jobs is the most effective way to reach  
15 students who are not successful in traditional classrooms; and

16           (4) Research also indicates that combining English as a second  
17 language programs with vocational education programs such as automotive  
18 or information technology is the most effective way to improve

1 employment and earnings outcomes for English as a second language  
2 students.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.50 RCW  
4 to read as follows:

5 The college board shall administer a vocational English as a second  
6 language program. Under the program, the college board shall:

7 (1) Target a portion of funds available from high demand enrollment  
8 appropriations to community and technical college programs that combine  
9 basic skills, English as a second language, and high demand vocational  
10 training programs. The college board shall distribute funds for this  
11 purpose through a competitive grant process;

12 (2) Provide training to community and technical colleges on best  
13 practices resulting from successful programs;

14 (3) Work with colleges to develop outreach to English as a second  
15 language residents regarding opportunities in high demand fields.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28C.18 RCW  
17 to read as follows:

18 The board, working with the advisory council on adult education,  
19 shall evaluate the employment and earnings outcomes from the vocational  
20 English as a second language program established in section 2 of this  
21 act and compare the program outcomes to outcomes from other basic  
22 skills, English as a second language, and vocational programs impacting  
23 a similar demographic and economic population.

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