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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2037**

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**State of Washington                      59th Legislature                      2005 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Upthegrove, Santos, Kenney, Hudgins, B. Sullivan, McCoy, Roberts and Hasegawa)

READ FIRST TIME 03/02/05.

1            AN ACT Relating to academic achievement for recent immigrant  
2 students; adding a new section to chapter 28A.180 RCW; creating a new  
3 section; providing an expiration date; and declaring an emergency.

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

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.180  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7            (1) The legislature finds that immigrants add immeasurably to the  
8 health and vitality of our state and nation and to the quality of life  
9 for all Americans. The legislature further finds that the state's new  
10 graduation requirements will be difficult to meet for recent immigrant  
11 students who are dominant in a language other than English. The  
12 legislature intends to support immigrant students who are eligible for  
13 the state's transitional bilingual program to continue to pursue a high  
14 school diploma beyond the twelfth grade by enrolling in an integrated  
15 program of academic and language skills development that is offered by  
16 a community college or technical college.

17            (2) By no later than the beginning of the 2006-07 school year, the  
18 state board for community and technical colleges and the office of the  
19 superintendent of public instruction shall design one or more options

1 to address the educational needs of recent immigrant high school  
2 students. The purpose of the options is to provide, in an age-  
3 appropriate setting, an integrated program of academic and English  
4 language skills development for immigrant students who have taken the  
5 high school Washington assessment of student learning but have not  
6 obtained a certificate of academic achievement or met other state and  
7 district graduation requirements. The options may be provided through  
8 the high school completion programs offered by community and technical  
9 colleges or through the creation of new courses or programs, including  
10 programs based on local contracts.

11 (3) The options shall be designed for recent immigrant students who  
12 are eligible, or who, within the preceding two years, have been  
13 enrolled in the state's transitional bilingual program. The options  
14 shall include but need not be limited to at least one approach that:

15 (a) Is a program that is coordinated between one or more school  
16 districts and one or more community colleges or technical colleges that  
17 have entered a cooperative agreement for the approach;

18 (b) Includes an individualized or group plan that describes the  
19 steps the district, college, and participants will take to help  
20 participants meet state and district graduation requirements;

21 (c) Includes an explanation of the program and the plan to  
22 participants and their families through an outreach effort in which the  
23 district or college meets directly with the families of potential  
24 participants;

25 (d) Permits participants to coenroll in the high school and college  
26 and to take the high school Washington assessment of student learning  
27 at least twice a year; and

28 (e) Provides instruction either in a community college or technical  
29 college facility, or in a school district or other facility through a  
30 community college or technical college.

31 (4) Beginning with the 2006-07 school year, the superintendent of  
32 public instruction and the state board for community and technical  
33 colleges shall pilot the approach described in subsection (3) of this  
34 section. The pilot shall include at least two school districts, one  
35 east of the mountains and one west of the mountains. The pilot will  
36 also include a focus on two different types of recent immigrants, one  
37 group of students who do not share a common first language, and one  
38 group of students who do.

1 (5) By December 15, 2007, the superintendent of public instruction  
2 and state board for community and technical colleges shall report to  
3 the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the legislature on the  
4 status of the pilots required in subsection (4) of this section. The  
5 report shall include any recommendations for statewide implementation  
6 of the approach in the pilot and any additional options, including  
7 coenrollment options, identified by the superintendent and the board.  
8 The board and superintendent shall begin statewide implementation of  
9 the options required in subsection (2) of this section in the 2008-09  
10 school year.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The joint select committee on immigrant  
12 education is created. The committee shall consist of one member of  
13 each major caucus of the senate, appointed by the president of the  
14 senate, and one member of each major caucus of the house of  
15 representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of  
16 representatives. The governor and the superintendent of public  
17 instruction may each appoint a representative to join the committee in  
18 its deliberations. Members of the joint select committee shall be  
19 appointed within fourteen days of the effective date of this act.

20 (2) The committee shall make recommendations to improve educational  
21 opportunities and attainment for recent immigrant students from diverse  
22 backgrounds and nations for whom English is a second language.

23 (3) To assist the joint select committee in its work, it shall seek  
24 advice from an advisory committee that shall analyze and make  
25 recommendations to the joint select committee on the following issues:

26 (a) The incorporation of international distance learning programs  
27 into the state's transitional bilingual program, so students may better  
28 maintain progress in subject areas while developing English language  
29 proficiency;

30 (b) The availability of distance learning international high school  
31 degree programs;

32 (c) Strategies to increase the number of teachers who are  
33 culturally and linguistically prepared to teach students from diverse  
34 backgrounds for whom English may be a second language. The strategies  
35 to be considered shall include, but need not be limited to, alternative  
36 K-12 certification opportunities for:

37 (i) Paraprofessionals with cultural and linguistic competence;

1 (ii) Immigrants who have educational credentials from their native  
2 countries but whose credentials are not recognized by the state; and

3 (iii) Refugees who left their country of origin without the  
4 necessary documentation of their qualifications and work experience;

5 (d) Recommendations on ways to infuse cultural awareness and  
6 understanding into preparation programs for educators and educational  
7 administrators;

8 (e) Strategies to increase the consultation of and involvement with  
9 community-based organizations, including faith-based organizations, in  
10 the design of professional development programs intended to improve the  
11 cultural competence of educators, administrators, and school staff when  
12 the organizations represent the ethnicity and national origin of the  
13 immigrant students in the school or school district; and

14 (f) Other actions and strategies to improve educational  
15 opportunities and attainment for recent immigrant students.

16 (4) The advisory committee may include, but need not be limited to,  
17 representation from the Washington state commissions on African-  
18 American affairs, Asian Pacific American affairs, and Hispanic affairs,  
19 the superintendent of public instruction, and teachers and  
20 administrators who provide educational services to recent immigrant  
21 students.

22 (5) The joint select committee shall report its findings and  
23 recommendations, by December 15, 2005, to the governor, the house of  
24 representatives and senate fiscal and education committees, the  
25 superintendent of public instruction, the state board of education, the  
26 professional educator standards board, and the higher education  
27 coordinating board.

28 (6) The joint select committee shall receive staffing support from  
29 senate committee services, the house of representatives office of  
30 program research, and the superintendent of public instruction.

31 (7) Legislative members of the joint select committee shall receive  
32 per diem and travel as provided in RCW 44.04.120.

33 (8) Per diem and travel for advisory committee members shall be the  
34 responsibility of the agency, organization, or school district that the  
35 advisory committee member represents.

36 (9) This section expires April 1, 2006.

1        NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 3.**   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   immediately.

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