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HOUSE BILL 2037

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State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Representatives Upthegrove, Santos, Kenney, Hudgins, B. Sullivan, McCoy, Roberts and Hasegawa

Read first time 02/15/2005. Referred to Committee on Education.

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; and providing expiration dates.

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 many immigrant  
11 students who do not understand or communicate well in English. The  
12 legislature intends to support a pilot program that will help immigrant  
13 students in the state's transitional bilingual program continue to  
14 pursue a high school diploma beyond the twelfth grade by enrolling in  
15 an integrated program of academic and language skills development that  
16 is offered by a community college or technical college, in cooperation  
17 with the office of the superintendent of public instruction and local  
18 school districts.

1 (2) The forward start pilot program is established. The purpose of  
2 the program is to provide, in an age-appropriate setting, an integrated  
3 program of academic and English language skills development for  
4 students who both are eligible for the state's transitional bilingual  
5 program and have met all state and district graduation requirements  
6 with the exception of the acquisition of a certificate of academic  
7 achievement. Instruction may be offered either in a community college  
8 or technical college, or in a school district facility through a  
9 community college or technical college.

10 (3) The program shall be designed collaboratively by the state  
11 board for community and technical colleges and the office of the  
12 superintendent of public instruction. Students in the program shall be  
13 provided with some combination of intensive English language and  
14 college preparation instruction, and the opportunity to take college  
15 level courses.

16 (4) Phase one of the pilot shall occur during the 2005-06 and  
17 2006-07 school years. During phase one, up to fifty students may be  
18 selected to participate in the pilot.

19 (a) Participants in phase one may include twelfth grade students  
20 who are eligible for the state's transitional bilingual program and who  
21 have not yet met the state or school district's graduation  
22 requirements.

23 (b) Participants in phase one who achieve the proficient standard  
24 in the reading, writing, and mathematics content areas of the high  
25 school Washington assessment of student learning and meet all state and  
26 school district graduation requirements shall receive a scholarship of  
27 one thousand dollars to attend a community college or technical  
28 college.

29 (5) Phase two of the pilot shall occur during the 2007-08 and  
30 2008-09 school years. During phase two, up to two hundred fifty  
31 students may participate in the first year, and up to a maximum of four  
32 hundred students may participate in the second year of the pilot.  
33 During phase two, participation is limited to students who are eligible  
34 for the state's transitional bilingual program and have met all state  
35 and school district graduation requirements except for the acquisition  
36 of a certificate of academic achievement.

37 (6) The program design for the pilots shall include the following  
38 components:

1 (a) Participating college and high school teams must establish a  
2 formal partnership;

3 (b) Each student shall have an individual student learning plan  
4 developed jointly by the participating college and the partner high  
5 school in which the participant is coenrolled;

6 (c) Each participating student and the student's family must have  
7 all options explained by school district staff;

8 (d) Each participating student in phase one may be enrolled in the  
9 program for a maximum of two years or until the student graduates from  
10 high school, whichever occurs first;

11 (e) Each participating student in phase two may be enrolled for a  
12 maximum of two years or until the student achieves the proficient level  
13 in the reading, writing, and mathematics content areas of the high  
14 school Washington assessment of student learning, whichever occurs  
15 first;

16 (f) Funding for each student shall be calculated and distributed  
17 based on the funding formula for running start students, under RCW  
18 28A.600.310(2); and

19 (g) Each student shall be given an opportunity, at no cost to the  
20 student, to take the Washington assessment of student learning twice a  
21 year in any content area in which the student was previously  
22 unsuccessful.

23 (7) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
24 track the progress of participants and, in collaboration with the state  
25 board for community and technical colleges, shall evaluate the results  
26 of the pilot program. By October 31, 2009, the office shall provide a  
27 final report on the pilot program to the governor, the house of  
28 representatives and senate education and fiscal committees, and other  
29 interested parties. The report shall include an evaluation of student  
30 success and recommendations on whether the program should be continued,  
31 modified, or eliminated.

32 (8) This section expires July 1, 2010.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The joint select committee on immigrant  
34 education is created. The committee shall consist of one member of  
35 each major caucus of the senate, appointed by the president of the  
36 senate; one member of each major caucus of the house of

1 representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of  
2 representatives; and a representative of the governor. Members of the  
3 joint select committee shall be appointed by April 22, 2005.

4 (2) The committee shall develop strategies and recommendations to  
5 improve educational opportunities and attainment for recent immigrant  
6 students from diverse backgrounds and nations for whom English is a  
7 second language. The committee shall address:

8 (a) The incorporation of international distance learning programs  
9 into the state's transitional bilingual program, including but not  
10 limited to the conevyt-portal of the government of Mexico, so students  
11 may better maintain progress in subject areas while developing English  
12 language proficiency;

13 (b) The availability of distance learning international high school  
14 degree programs and the feasibility of incorporating those programs  
15 into the state's graduation pathways;

16 (c) Strategies to increase the number of teachers who are  
17 culturally and linguistically prepared to teach students from diverse  
18 backgrounds for whom English may be a second language. The strategies  
19 to be considered shall include, but need not be limited to, alternative  
20 certification opportunities for:

21 (i) Paraprofessionals with cultural and linguistic competence;

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

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

26 (d) Recommendations on ways to infuse cultural awareness and  
27 understanding into preparation programs for educators and educational  
28 administrators; and

29 (e) Strategies to increase the consultation of and involvement with  
30 community-based organizations, including faith-based organizations, in  
31 the design of professional development programs intended to improve the  
32 cultural competence of educators, administrators, and school staff when  
33 the organizations represent the ethnicity and national origin of the  
34 immigrant students in the school or school district.

35 (3) The joint select committee may form one or more advisory  
36 committees that may include, but need not be limited to, representation  
37 from the Washington state commissions on African-American affairs,  
38 Asian Pacific American affairs, and Hispanic affairs.

1           (4) The joint select committee shall report its findings and  
2 recommendations, by December 15, 2005, to the governor, the house of  
3 representatives and senate fiscal and education committees, the  
4 superintendent of public instruction, the state board of education, the  
5 professional educator standards board, and the higher education  
6 coordinating board.

7           (5) The joint select committee shall receive staffing support from  
8 Senate committee services and the house of representatives office of  
9 program research.

10          (6) Legislative members of the joint select committee shall receive  
11 per diem and travel as provided in RCW 44.04.120.

12          (7) This section expires April 1, 2006.

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