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SENATE BILL 6899

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State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Senator Roach

Read first time 02/20/2006. Referred to Committee on Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to instruction in Spanish and Chinese; amending RCW  
2 28A.410.025; adding a new section to chapter 28A.320 RCW; and creating  
3 a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A majority of students in Washington do not  
6 have the chance to study any language other than English until they are  
7 in middle school, or more often, high school. Education systems of  
8 other nations, some of them much less economically developed than the  
9 United States, begin second language study in the early elementary  
10 grades. Washington's economy is tied to world trade. To enable  
11 Washington citizens to more effectively compete in the world  
12 marketplace and develop a greater sense of the world's culture and  
13 geography, our students, at all levels, must be provided the  
14 opportunity to develop fluency in a second language.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.320  
16 RCW to read as follows:

17 Beginning with the 2006-07 school year:

1 (1) Each school district shall provide a sequentially, articulated  
2 world language program from elementary through secondary levels that  
3 provides instruction in Spanish and a Chinese language. The program  
4 shall be offered in grades kindergarten through twelve.

5 (2) Each student may participate in the district program  
6 established under subsection (1) of this section and receive  
7 instruction in Spanish or a Chinese language.

8 (3) Second class school districts may seek a one-year waiver from  
9 the state board of education to delay implementation of the requirement  
10 to provide the program in subsection (1) of this section. The waiver  
11 may be renewed up to three times.

12 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.410.025 and 1969 ex.s. c 223 s 28A.67.010 are each  
13 amended to read as follows:

14 No person shall be accounted as a qualified teacher within the  
15 meaning of the school law who is not the holder of a valid teacher's  
16 certificate or permit issued by lawful authority of this state, except  
17 that a school district may use noncertificated staff or school  
18 volunteers to provide the language instruction in the programs or  
19 classes taught in accordance with section 2 of this act. However, the  
20 noncertificated staff providing the language instruction must: (1) Be  
21 able to speak and write the language fluently; and (2) speak English.

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