

HB 1517 - DIGEST

(AS OF HOUSE 2ND READING 3/8/2007)

Finds that Washington state: (1) Is one of the most trade-dependent states in the United States, where one in three jobs is directly connected to trade;

(2) Benefits from a thriving tourist trade;

(3) Encourages cultural understanding and tolerance for its citizens; and

(4) Seeks a world-class education system.

Finds that there is a current lack of leadership and commitment at the state level to improve world language instruction so that our students can secure their part in the global community and remain competitive in the world.

Provides that, subject to the availability of funds appropriated for this purpose, the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall allocate grants, based on a competitive application process, for pilot projects to enhance instruction in world languages at the elementary and middle school level.

Provides that, at the end of the grant period, the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall evaluate the outcomes, successes, and limitations of the pilot projects as strategies to enhance world language instruction in public schools and report its findings to the education committees of the legislature at the first legislative session after the end of the grant period.