

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT
SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1709

63rd Legislature
2014 Regular Session

Passed by the House March 10, 2014
Yeas 81 Nays 17

Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed by the Senate March 7, 2014
Yeas 43 Nays 4

President of the Senate

Approved

Governor of the State of Washington

CERTIFICATE

I, Barbara Baker, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1709** as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

Chief Clerk

FILED

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1709

AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2014 Regular Session

State of Washington 63rd Legislature 2014 Regular Session

By House Appropriations Subcommittee on Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Dahlquist, Santos, Magendanz, Moscoso, Fagan, Ryu, Maxwell, Pollet, and Bergquist)

READ FIRST TIME 02/11/14.

1 AN ACT Relating to training for volunteer foreign language
2 interpreters in K-12 public schools; adding a new section to chapter
3 28A.320 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28A.300 RCW; creating new
4 sections; and providing an expiration date.

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

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

7 (1) The number of foreign language speakers has substantially
8 increased in Washington's public schools over the last decade. The
9 office of the superintendent of public instruction reports that nine
10 percent of the state's total student population was enrolled in the
11 transitional bilingual instruction program as of May 2013, and more
12 than two hundred different languages are spoken in students' homes.

13 (2) The office of the education ombuds reports an increased number
14 of complaints from English language learner students and limited
15 English proficient parents regarding schools' lack of provision of
16 accurate education interpretation and the use of students as
17 interpreters for their own families.

18 (3) There are no training programs in the state specifically for
19 foreign language education interpreters. The lack of qualified

1 individuals causes public schools to use untrained bilingual adults or
2 students themselves as interpreters for parents in high-stakes
3 situations where decisions about a student's academic future are being
4 made.

5 (4) Communicating effectively with limited English proficient
6 students and families presents a challenge for Washington public
7 schools, and the inability to meet this challenge leads to inequities
8 and increased gaps in student achievement, along with increased student
9 dropouts.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) By February 1, 2015, the office of the
11 education ombuds must submit to the education committees of the
12 legislature a feasibility study for development of a state foreign
13 language education interpreter training program designed to create a
14 pool of trained interpreters for public schools, including volunteer
15 interpreters.

16 (2) The study must include:

17 (a) An overview of current need for and availability of foreign
18 language education interpreters in public schools, as well as current
19 practices for providing these interpreters;

20 (b) An inventory of interpreter training programs in Washington and
21 examples from other states;

22 (c) An examination of state and federal laws that apply to the
23 provision of interpretation in public schools, including how laws
24 pertaining to family and student privacy apply to interpreters, and
25 including Title VI of the civil rights act of 1964 as it applies to
26 national origin discrimination affecting limited English proficient
27 parents and guardians; and

28 (d) An inventory of community resources for interpreter training,
29 including for volunteer interpreters.

30 (3) As used in this section:

31 (a) "Interpreter" means a bilingual or multilingual individual who
32 provides oral translation for others.

33 (b) "Foreign language education interpreter" means an individual
34 who provides oral translation for limited English proficient students
35 and parents in public schools.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.320
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) Subject to funds appropriated for this specific purpose, by
4 June 1, 2015, the Washington state school directors' association, with
5 the office of the education ombuds and other interested parties, shall
6 develop a model family language access policy and procedure for school
7 districts.

8 (2) This section expires August 1, 2017.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
10 RCW to read as follows:

11 (1) The office of the superintendent of public instruction and the
12 office of the education ombuds shall post information on the agency's
13 web site regarding the phone interpretation vendors on contract with
14 the state of Washington, including contact information.

15 (2) School districts are encouraged to use the phone interpretation
16 services addressed in subsection (1) of this section to communicate
17 with student's parents, legal guardians, and family members who have
18 limited English proficiency.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** If specific funding for the purposes of this
20 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by
21 June 30, 2014, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and
22 void.

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