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**SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1709**

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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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