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SENATE BILL 5885

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State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Senators Roach, Rivers, Holmquist Newbry, Hasegawa, and Chase

Read first time 03/25/13. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to instruction in Spanish and Chinese languages;  
2 creating new sections; providing an expiration date; and declaring an  
3 emergency.

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 opportunity to study any language other than English until  
7 they are in middle school, or more often, in high school. Educational  
8 systems of other nations, some of which are much less economically  
9 developed than the United States, begin second language study in the  
10 early elementary grades. Washington's economy is tied to world trade.  
11 To enable Washington citizens to more effectively compete in the world  
12 marketplace and develop a greater sense of the world's culture and  
13 geography, we should explore ways for our students, at all levels, to  
14 be provided the opportunity to develop fluency in a second language.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) A Spanish and Chinese language  
16 instruction pilot program is created. A maximum of two school  
17 districts may participate. Each school district shall provide a  
18 sequentially, articulated world language program in elementary schools

1 that provides instruction in Spanish and a Chinese language. Interested  
2 districts shall apply no later than May 15, 2013, to the superintendent  
3 of public instruction to participate in the pilot program established  
4 by this section. The superintendent shall make a decision no later  
5 than June 15, 2013, regarding which school districts may participate in  
6 the pilot program.

7 (2) School districts participating in the program must agree to:

8 (a) Assure that parents are informed of the availability of the  
9 language classes offered as a pilot program; and

10 (b) Participate in an evaluation of the program as determined by  
11 the superintendent of public instruction.

12 (3) Participating school districts shall be permitted to employ  
13 classroom teachers of unusual competence but without certification, as  
14 provided in RCW 28A.150.203(7), to provide the language instruction for  
15 the pilot program.

16 (4) Beginning in June 2014 and continuing for the life of the pilot  
17 program, the superintendent of public instruction shall submit an  
18 annual report to the governor and the legislature that summarizes the  
19 pilot program and its effectiveness. The report shall also include a  
20 recommendation as to whether or not the pilot program should be  
21 continued, expanded, or otherwise modified.

22 (5) This section expires July 1, 2015.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
24 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
25 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
26 immediately.

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