



SPONSOR: Rep. Price ;
Reps. Keeley, Miro, Schroeder;
Sens. Bunting, Sokola

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

140th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE BILL NO. 567

AN ACT DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP, IMPLEMENT, AND ENHANCE PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE:

1 WHEREAS, Delaware must continually strive to improve the quality of instruction for our students so
2 they may succeed in a global economy;

3 WHEREAS, in an effort to improve academic performance for all students, the General Assembly has
4 established a comprehensive accountability system for students, schools and districts;

5 WHEREAS, there are more than 2,000 students in Delaware's public schools who have been identified as
6 having limited English proficiency and representing 47 different home languages; and

7 WHEREAS, the largest portion of these students are of Hispanic origin and Delaware's estimated
8 Hispanic population grew from 15,527 in 1990, to 28,326 in 1997 (an increase of over 82%); and

9 WHEREAS, the Department of Education has developed state regulations for instructional services to
10 students with limited English proficiency which adhere to federal legal requirements for serving such students; and

11 WHEREAS, more than 50 representatives from Delaware's communities, the Governor's Council on
12 Hispanic Affairs, the state legislature, local school districts, and other educational professionals comprised the
13 Delaware Language Minority Student Task Force; and

14 WHEREAS, in December, 1999, Delaware's Language Minority Student Task Force submitted a major
15 report of recommendations, findings and products related to their vision that all students in Delaware, including
16 language minority students, will reach high state content and student performance standards; and

17 WHEREAS, this report contained specific strategies and best practices covering instruction, assessment,
18 program evaluation, and parent involvement; and

19 WHEREAS, it is important to support programs based on theories recognized by experts in the field as
20 effective in addressing the dual challenge of providing English language development and delivering academic
21 content; and

22 WHEREAS, choice of program type is a local decision, and either a bilingual program or a program
23 delivered exclusively in English may be appropriate, depending on local conditions; and

24 WHEREAS, Delaware's education reform effort includes addressing the needs of all students and
25 ensuring that all students have access to instruction that is aligned to standards.

26 NOW THEREFORE: BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF
27 DELAWARE:

28 Section 1. The Department of Education shall, during fiscal year 1001, implement a pilot program for
29 limited English proficient students. The Department shall administer an application process to determine grant
30 awards to local districts to provide services to limited English proficient students.

31 Section 2. The Department of Education, commencing in fiscal year 2002, shall include in its annual
32 budget request, sufficient funding for the continuation of, or modification to this pilot program.

33 Section 3. The Department of Education, during fiscal year 2001, will provide recommendations for
34 legislative changes, if necessary, to the General Assembly.

35 Section 4. The provisions of this Act shall be contingent upon an appropriation to the Department of
36 Education in the Annual Appropriation Act for this purpose.

SYNOPSIS

This Act directs the Department of Education to develop, implement and enhance programs for students with limited English proficiency.