

SENATE BILL NO. 455—COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
(ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION)

MARCH 25, 2013

Referred to Committee on Education

SUMMARY—Establishes a pilot program for school districts to establish or expand programs for children who are English language learners. (BDR S-1131)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: Executive Budget.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to education; establishing a pilot program to provide grants to school districts to establish or expand programs for children who are English language learners; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

1 This bill: (1) establishes a pilot program to provide grants to school districts to
2 establish or expand programs for children who are English language learners in
3 prekindergarten through grade 4; (2) sets forth the requirements for the submission
4 of an application for a grant to the Department of Education and the process for
5 review of each application by the Department; (3) prescribes the process by which
6 grants of money must be disbursed; (4) requires an independent outside evaluation
7 of the success of programs that were established or expanded with the grant money;
8 and (5) requires the Department to submit a report to the Governor and the 78th
9 Session of the Legislature which includes recommendations for continuing or
10 expanding the pilot program.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 **Section 1.** 1. There is hereby established a pilot program to
2 provide grants of money to school districts to establish or expand
3 programs for children who are English language learners in
4 prekindergarten through grade 4. The board of trustees of a school
5 district may submit an application for a grant on a form prescribed



1 by the Department of Education. The Department shall review each
2 application submitted based upon the following:

3 (a) An assessment of the needs of the school district for
4 establishing or expanding programs for pupils who are English
5 language learners in prekindergarten through grade 4 based upon a
6 review and identification of the policies, procedures and practices
7 that are impacting the performance of pupils in the school district
8 who are English language learners enrolled in kindergarten through
9 grade 4;

10 (b) Based upon the assessment of needs described in paragraph
11 (a), the school district's stated goals, objectives and anticipated
12 outcomes for the programs that the school district will establish or
13 expand with the grant money;

14 (c) The ability of the school district to sustain the programs that
15 will be established or expanded with the grant money; and

16 (d) The school district's proposed management and evaluation
17 of the programs that it will establish or expand with the grant
18 money.

19 2. If the Department of Education determines that a district has
20 submitted an application for a grant in which the data in the needs
21 statements are not aligned with the project goals and methodology,
22 the Department's staff shall require the district to seek technical
23 assistance from a consultant who meets the criteria established by
24 the Department for this purpose and the school district must revise
25 the application in a manner that satisfies the criteria of the
26 Department. Before the grants are allocated, the Department must
27 set aside a reserve of \$300,000 for payment of any required
28 consultant.

29 3. In making a determination on the awards of grants to school
30 districts pursuant to this section, the Department of Education shall
31 establish priorities for funding which include, without limitation:

32 (a) The creation or expansion of high-quality, developmentally
33 appropriate prekindergarten programs that will increase enrollment
34 of children who are English language learners;

35 (b) Acquisition of empirically proven assessment tools to
36 determine the reading levels of children who are English language
37 learners in prekindergarten through grade 2;

38 (c) The use of empirically proven technology-based tools, such
39 as software designed to support the learning of children who are
40 English language learners;

41 (d) Professional development for teachers and other educational
42 personnel on effective instructional practices and strategies for
43 children who are English language learners; and



(e) The provision of programs for pupils who are English language learners before and after school and during school vacations.

4. For those school districts whose applications are approved, the Department of Education shall award grants using a formula that divides the available fiscal resources among the school districts whose applications are approved based upon the number of pupils enrolled in each school district who are English language learners enrolled in kindergarten through grade 4. Each school district whose application is approved must receive at least \$10,000.

5. The Department of Education shall make grants to the school districts whose applications are approved on a 2-year basis but shall disburse only one-half of the total grant award to the school district in the first year of the biennium. Upon satisfactory evidence to the Department that the school district successfully implemented the programs for which the grant was approved, the Department shall disburse the remaining amount of the grant to the school district in the second year of the biennium.

6. Each school district that receives a grant of money pursuant to this section shall set aside \$300,000 or 10 percent of the grant award, whichever is less, for an independent outside evaluation of the success of the programs for which the grant was awarded. The evaluation must include the criteria and information established by the Department of Education and include, without limitation:

(a) The achievement results of the children who participated in a program for which a grant of money was awarded and, if available, data based upon the academic growth of the children who participated; and

(b) An assessment of whether the program for which a grant of money was awarded was directly aligned and correlated to the needs of the school district as identified in the grant application submitted by the school district.

7. Each school district shall submit the results of the evaluation conducted pursuant to subsection 6 to the Department of Education. On or before January 1, 2015, the Department of Education shall compile the evaluations received and submit a written report, including, without limitation, recommendations for continuing or expanding the pilot program established pursuant to this section to the Governor and to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the 78th Session of the Nevada Legislature.

Sec. 2. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2013.

