

MAR 1 2001
STATE GOVERNMENT

HOUSE FILE 465
BY HATCH, JOCHUM, MYERS, WITT,
FREVERT, SMITH, BUKTA, SENG,
DOTZLER, ATTEBERRY, GREIMANN,
and PETERSEN

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act endorsing the concept of multiple language skills in the
2 state of Iowa.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 465

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 1.18 ENGLISH PLUS AFFIRMATION.

2 1. The general assembly of the state of Iowa finds and
3 declares the following:

4 a. English is and will remain the primary language of the
5 state of Iowa, and all members of the state recognize the
6 importance of English to state life, individual
7 accomplishment, and personal enrichment.

8 b. Many United States citizens have native languages other
9 than English, including many languages indigenous to the North
10 American continent, and many members of society have not had
11 an equal opportunity to learn English.

12 c. The ability to communicate in English and other
13 languages has promoted and can further enhance Iowa's
14 economic, political, and cultural vitality, and contributes to
15 the state's productivity and nationwide competitiveness.

16 d. Fundamental values and state and national documents
17 ensure tolerance and respect for diversity and guarantee all
18 persons equal protection under the law.

19 e. A need exists for a vastly expanded network of
20 facilities for comprehensive English language instruction and
21 services to ensure that all persons in the state have the
22 ability to exercise the rights and responsibilities of full
23 participation in society. A need exists to offer English as a
24 primary language in classes at Iowa community colleges, state
25 universities, and public schools.

26 f. A need exists to foster multiple language skills among
27 all people in the state in order to promote Iowa's position in
28 the world marketplace and to strengthen Iowa's conduct of
29 relations with other countries.

30 g. A need exists to endorse the concept of English Plus in
31 order to promote public civility and the fundamental values
32 and objectives of society.

33 2. Laws containing restrictionist language shall not be
34 enacted in Iowa that will impede a citizen's right to vote,
35 infringe on a citizen's civil rights, foster governmental

1 interference in private activity and free commerce, or cause
2 social disunity.

3 EXPLANATION

4 This bill adds a new section to Code chapter 1 that states
5 that English is the primary language of the state of Iowa, but
6 also endorses the value of encouraging multiple language
7 skills among the state's citizens. The bill prohibits the
8 enactment of Code language that impedes a citizen's right to
9 vote, infringes on a citizen's civil rights, fosters
10 governmental interference in private activity and free
11 commerce, or causes social disunity.

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