

Senate Resolution 104 - Introduced

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 104

BY SODDERS

1 A Resolution requesting the legislative council to
2 establish an interim study committee to study
3 the impacts of mandatory dual language immersion
4 programs in school districts.

5 WHEREAS, Iowa's competitive position in the global
6 economy depends on Iowa's educational system to prepare
7 individuals for employment by developing superior
8 literacy, cognitive, and communication skills; and

9 WHEREAS, research indicates that English language
10 learners participating in dual language immersion
11 programs perform academically at least as well as same
12 background peers being schooled in English only; and

13 WHEREAS, English language learners' higher bilingual
14 proficiency levels are linked to higher levels of
15 reading achievement in English, increased academic
16 language proficiency, and successful schooling
17 experiences in general; and

18 WHEREAS, native English speakers who participate in
19 such programs consistently develop native-like levels
20 of comprehension, such as listening and reading skills,
21 in their second language; and

22 WHEREAS, fully proficient bilingual children
23 outperform their monolingual peers in the areas
24 of divergent thinking, pattern recognition, and
25 problem-solving, making immersion students better
26 prepared for the global community and job markets where
27 21st century skills are an asset; NOW THEREFORE,

28 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the senate

1 requests the legislative council to authorize and
2 establish an interim study committee composed of
3 members of the senate and the house of representatives
4 to commence meeting during the 2016 legislative
5 interim; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the purpose of the
7 interim study committee is to study the short-term and
8 long-term impacts of mandatory dual language immersion
9 programs beginning in the first grade and continuing
10 through grade twelve, review budgetary and programmatic
11 matters related to the establishment of a dual language
12 immersion pilot program, and submit findings and
13 recommendations to the general assembly by January 1,
14 2017.