

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2619

To establish Federal grant programs to identify and address the foreign language needs within the United States for the purpose of enhancing economic competitiveness, ensuring national security, and promoting the national interest.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 13, 1993

Mr. EMERSON introduced the following bill; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Education and Labor

A BILL

To establish Federal grant programs to identify and address the foreign language needs within the United States for the purpose of enhancing economic competitiveness, ensuring national security, and promoting the national interest.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Foreign Language
5 Economic Enhancement Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Foreign language proficiency will help
2 Americans to understand other customs and cul-
3 tures, conduct effective foreign policy, expand inter-
4 national trade, ensure the integrity of national de-
5 fense and security, and develop a truly broad-based
6 education for all citizens.

7 (2) The business community suffers from
8 United States educational deficiencies, including in-
9 adequate foreign language instruction. To compete,
10 Americans must know more about their economic
11 partners and competitors. To do business overseas,
12 Americans must understand the customer's language
13 and customs.

14 (3) Of the world's 10 most populous languages,
15 representing potential markets, 6 of them, Malay-In-
16 donesian, Bengali, Hindi, Portuguese, and some dia-
17 lects of Arabic and Chinese, are not widely taught
18 in the United States.

19 (4) In Europe, there are dozens of universities
20 with schools of practical interpretation and trans-
21 lation. In the United States, very few institutions of
22 higher education offer training in translation and in-
23 terpretation, and only one offers an undergraduate
24 degree program.

1 (5) Most professional interpreters and trans-
2 lators working in the United States are foreign-born
3 or received their professional training in other coun-
4 tries.

5 (6) Only 8 percent of our universities require
6 foreign languages for admission, and only 5 percent
7 of our college graduates are fluent in any language
8 other than English. American colleges and univer-
9 sities must place a new emphasis on improving the
10 teaching of foreign languages, regional studies, and
11 international studies to help meet such challenges.

12 (7) Many teachers lack adequate international
13 preparation. Only 5 percent of current elementary
14 and secondary teachers ever took international rela-
15 tions, or geography courses while in school.

16 (8) Fewer than 5 percent of the elementary
17 school students in this country receive foreign lan-
18 guage instruction, and only 17 percent of United
19 States public elementary schools offer any form of
20 language instruction.

21 (9) As new and increased language instruction
22 becomes necessary, educators to teach these lan-
23 guages are becoming increasingly difficult to find.
24 35 States are currently reporting a shortage in for-
25 eign language teachers.

1 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

2 As used in this Act—

3 (1) the term “institution of higher education”
4 has meaning provided by section 1201 of the Higher
5 Education Act of 1965;

6 (2) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary
7 of Education;

8 (3) the term “State education agency” has the
9 meaning provided by section 1201 of the Higher
10 Education Act of 1965; and

11 (4) the term “local educational agency” has the
12 meaning provided by section 1201 of such Act.

13 **TITLE I—FOREIGN LANGUAGE**
14 **TEACHER RECRUITMENT**

15 **SEC. 101. PURPOSE.**

16 It is the purpose of this title to establish a grant pro-
17 gram that will assist States in recruiting individuals with
18 a demonstrated competence in a foreign language and pro-
19 viding those individuals with the training required to qual-
20 ify those individuals to teach.

21 **SEC. 102. PROGRAM AUTHORITY.**

22 (a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall, in
23 accordance with the requirements of this title, establish
24 a program to provide grants to State educational agencies
25 to recruit and train qualified individuals as elementary
26 and secondary school teachers.

1 (b) ALLOTMENT OF FUNDS.—The Secretary shall pe-
2 riodically assess the needs for foreign language teachers
3 in each State. The Secretary shall establish by regulation,
4 procedures based on the results of such assessment, for
5 the allotment of funds provided under this title among
6 those States that have submitted applications that meet
7 the requirements of section 203. Such procedures shall
8 provide that no State shall receive a grant of less than
9 \$500,000 or more than \$2,000,000.

10 **SEC. 103. GRANT APPLICATIONS.**

11 Any State desiring to receive a grant under this title
12 shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time,
13 in such form, and containing or accompanied by such in-
14 formation and assurances as the Secretary may require
15 by regulation. Such application shall—

16 (1) contain assurances that 50 percent of the
17 funds made available under the grant for each fiscal
18 year will be used to provide grants of not more than
19 \$5,000 per year to qualified individuals to cover the
20 costs of instruction required to obtain certification to
21 teach;

22 (2) provide that the State educational agency
23 will allocate funds provided under the grant on the
24 basis of the following factors;

1 (A) the local educational agencies need for
2 qualified teachers of foreign languages;

3 (B) the extent to which the local edu-
4 cational agency has established model programs
5 to address foreign language instruction in effec-
6 tive ways;

7 (C) the need for development of new pro-
8 grams to recruit and train qualified foreign lan-
9 guage teachers; and

10 (D) such additional factors as the State
11 educational agency considers appropriate;

12 (3) contain assurances that the State edu-
13 cational agency will not provide funds under the
14 grant to any institution of higher education unless
15 the institution of higher education requires 2 years
16 of foreign language instruction as a condition of ad-
17 mission or graduation; and

18 (4) specify the procedures by which the State
19 educational agency will select the institutions or or-
20 ganizations to provide the training required for
21 teacher certification, which may include an institu-
22 tion of higher education, local educational agency, or
23 consortia of institutions of higher education and
24 local educational agencies.

1 **SEC. 104. QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS.**

2 (a) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this title, an indi-
3 vidual is qualified if such individual has competence in a
4 foreign language at a level consistent with the standards
5 established by the Secretary under subsection (b).

6 (b) SELECTION.—In selecting individuals for receipt
7 for assistance under this title, a State educational agency
8 shall include qualified individuals who are—

9 (1) retired or returning Government employees
10 who served abroad;

11 (2) retired or returning business persons or
12 professionals who served abroad;

13 (3) foreign-born nationals with a degree from a
14 domestic or overseas institution of higher education;
15 and

16 (4) individuals with a baccalaureate degree
17 whose major or minor was in a foreign language or
18 international studies.

19 **SEC. 105. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

20 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
21 this title \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 1994 and each of
22 the 3 succeeding fiscal years.

1 **TITLE II—GRANTS TO INSTITU-**
2 **TIONS OF HIGHER EDU-**
3 **CATION FOR TRANSLATORS**
4 **AND INTERPRETERS**

5 **SEC. 201. NEEDS ASSESSMENT COUNCIL.**

6 (a) PROGRAM AUTHORITY.—The Department of
7 State shall establish a Translation and Interpretation
8 Needs Assessment Council.

9 (b) COMPOSITION.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Council shall be com-
11 posed of the following individuals or the designated
12 representatives of such individuals:

13 (A) The Secretary of State, or a designee,
14 who shall serve as the chairperson of the Board.

15 (B) The Secretary of Education.

16 (C) The Secretary of Defense.

17 (D) The Secretary of Commerce.

18 (E) The Director of the Central Intel-
19 ligence Agency.

20 (F) The Director of the United States In-
21 formation Agency.

22 (G) The Director of the National Security
23 Council.

24 (H) 6 individuals appointed by the Presi-
25 dent, who have the expertise in the fields of

1 translation and interpretation, language and
2 linguistics, international studies, business, and
3 area studies education.

4 (2) SPECIAL RULE.—Individuals appointed to
5 the Board pursuant to paragraph (1)(H) shall be
6 appointed for a period not to exceed 4 years. Such
7 individuals shall receive no compensation for service
8 on the Council, but may receive reimbursement for
9 travel and other necessary expenses.

10 (c) FUNCTIONS.—The Council shall—

11 (1) establish qualifications for students and in-
12 stitutions of higher education desiring fellowships
13 and grants for institutional support under this title;

14 (2) coordinate and determine the translation
15 and interpretation needs of the Government for the
16 purposes of economic competitiveness and coopera-
17 tion, diplomacy, and national security; and

18 (3) after determining these needs, make grants
19 to institutions of higher education for training trans-
20 lation and interpretation specialists and personnel.

21 **SEC. 202. PROCEDURES FOR THE SELECTION OF GRANT**
22 **AND FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.**

23 (a) GRANTS.—The Council shall award grants under
24 this title to institutions of higher education or consortia
25 of institutions of higher education (in conjunction with

1 nonprofit or Federal agencies, or both) that provide evi-
2 dence that they are developing a degree or certificate pro-
3 gram in translation and interpretation.

4 (b) FELLOWSHIPS.—The Council shall award fellow-
5 ships under this title to individuals who are enrolled in
6 a degree or certificate program and agree to enter govern-
7 ment or public service for 2 years for each year of study
8 for which a fellowship under this title is received.

9 **SEC. 203. ESTABLISHMENT OF GRANT AND FELLOWSHIP**
10 **PROGRAM.**

11 (a) INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT.—Funds provided by a
12 grant under this title may be used for the purposes of—

13 (1) developing physical plant and interpretation
14 facilities,

15 (2) instructor training,

16 (3) materials,

17 (4) curriculum development,

18 (5) internships,

19 (6) faculty development and support in trans-
20 lation and interpretation,

21 (7) certificate and degree programs, and

22 (8) the development and enhancement of grad-
23 uate programs.

24 (b) FELLOWSHIPS.—Fellowships under this title shall
25 be awarded to individuals who are United States citizens

1 or resident aliens to enable such students to pursue edu-
2 cation in the United States in the areas of practical inter-
3 pretation and translation.

4 **SEC. 204. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

5 There are authorized to be appropriated \$15,000,000
6 for fiscal year 1994, of which no less than \$10,000,000
7 shall be available for section 202(a), and such sums as
8 may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1995, 1996,
9 and 1997 to carry out the provisions of this title.

10 **TITLE III—LESSER KNOWN AND**
11 **STUDIED LANGUAGES**

12 **SEC. 301. LESSER KNOWN AND STUDIED LANGUAGES**
13 **GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS.**

14 Effective October 1, 1993, the Soviet-Eastern Euro-
15 pean Research and Training Act of 1983 (22 U.S.C.
16 4501) is amended by adding after section 809 the follow-
17 ing new section:

18 **“SEC. 810. LESSER KNOWN AND STUDIED LANGUAGES**
19 **GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS.**

20 “(a) **PURPOSE.**—It is the purpose of this section to
21 promote the teaching and study of lesser known and stud-
22 ied languages.

23 “(b) **DEFINITION.**—For the purposes of this section,
24 the term ‘lesser known and studied languages’ means lan-
25 guages considered important to the national interest, na-

1 tional security, and economic competitiveness which have
2 less than 1,000 students engaged in study at institutions
3 of higher education in the United States.

4 “(c) PROGRAM AUTHORITY.—

5 “(1) LIST OF LESSER KNOWN AND STUDIED
6 LANGUAGES.—The Secretary of State, in consulta-
7 tion with other appropriate agencies, shall develop a
8 list of the lesser known and studied languages.

9 “(2) GRANTS.—The Secretary of State shall
10 award grants under this section to institutions of
11 higher education or consortia of institutions of high-
12 er education (in conjunction with nonprofit or Fed-
13 eral agencies, or both) that provide evidence that
14 they are developing programs, classes, curriculum
15 material, and faculty for study in the lesser known
16 and studied languages. No such grant may exceed
17 \$1,000,000.

18 “(3) FELLOWSHIPS.—The Secretary of State
19 shall award fellowships under this section to individ-
20 uals who are enrolled at an accredited institution of
21 higher education in a degree or certificate program
22 in a lesser known and studied language leading to
23 proficiency in such language. Fellowships under this
24 section shall be \$5,000 for each semester of study.

25 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

1 “(1) GRANTS.—There are authorized to be ap-
2 propriated \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 1994 to carry
3 out subsection (c)(2).

4 “(2) FELLOWSHIPS.—There are authorized to
5 be appropriated \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 1994 to
6 carry out subsection (c)(3).”.

7 **TITLE IV—EXPORT EDUCATION**

8 **SEC. 401. PURPOSE.**

9 It is the purpose of this title to assist American com-
10 panies to develop and expand into export markets by pro-
11 viding education and support services necessary for do-
12 mestic businesses to succeed in international markets by
13 increasing their basic knowledge of world markets, foreign
14 cultures and languages.

15 **SEC. 402. GRANTS AUTHORIZED.**

16 (a) GRANTS BY SECRETARY.—The Secretary of Com-
17 merce shall, in accordance with this title, make grants to
18 States to carry out the purpose described in section 401.

19 (b) SELECTION OF GRANTS.—The State shall submit
20 to the Secretary a proposal indicating the qualifications
21 of the eligible entity for carrying out the provisions of sec-
22 tion 403.

23 (c) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS BY STATES.—Each
24 State that receives a grant under this title shall determine
25 the eligibility of an appropriate State-based entity accord-

1 ing to the needs of the State's primary trade and economic
2 development agency and model programs serving such
3 needs or for the development of such programs.

4 **SEC. 403. AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.**

5 Funds provided under this title may be used for the
6 purpose of, but are not limited to—

7 (1) education, support and referral services in
8 developing marketing materials in foreign languages
9 and appropriate to other cultures,

10 (2) assisting companies in trade missions,

11 (3) holding seminars and classes for companies
12 on topics such as export regulations, trading tech-
13 niques, working in foreign cultures and foreign lan-
14 guages,

15 (4) providing consulting services with experts to
16 assist companies in export and marketing planning,
17 and

18 (5) acting as a clearinghouse in supplying com-
19 panies with information and updates to assist them
20 in identifying international and trade opportunities.

21 **SEC. 404. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

22 There are authorized to be appropriated \$12,500,000
23 in fiscal years 1994, 1995, 1996, and 1997 to carry out
24 the provisions of this title.

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