



HCR 2005 English language education; requirements (Fillmore)

Under current law, Proposition 203 was passed by voters in 2000 that required all children to be taught English through English language instruction in English language classrooms, and ELL students learning through sheltered English immersion could only do so for one year.

This bill seeks voter approval to repeal the English-only requirements on English language learner (ELL) instruction required by Proposition 203.

Provisions:

- Repeals language that:
 - Requires all children in Arizona public schools be taught English through English language instruction in English language classrooms
 - Allows a child's legal guardian to apply for a waiver to transfer their child to classes teaching English and other subjects through bilingual education techniques or other generally recognized educational methodologies permitted by law
 - States that a child's legal guardian has legal standing to sue for enforcement of ELL statutes
 - States that any school board member or other elected official or administrator who willfully and repeatedly refuses to implement and enforce ELL statutes may be held personally liable for fees and actual and compensatory damage by a child's legal guardian
 - Mandates that all public students in grades 2-12 be given a standardized, nationally normed written test of academic subject matter in English at least once a year.
- Mandates that each public school ensure that ELL students:
 - Receive the highest quality of education
 - Master the English language
 - Access high quality, innovative, research-based language programs.
- Permits public schools to establish dual-language immersion programs for both native and nonnative English speakers.
- Requires public schools to:
 - Provide students effective and appropriate instructional methods
 - Establish English language acquisition programs
 - Solicit community and stakeholder input on these methods and programs
- Directs the Secretary of State to submit this proposition to voters at the next general election