

Sample Bill for Mock Congress

Sample Courtesy of : Erin Silk, Fairview High School

Committee Action: _____

AN ACT TO: REQUIRE PASSAGE OF AN ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY TEST FOR ALL PUBLIC MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PRIOR TO PLACEMENT IN CLASSES TAUGHT IN ENGLISH.

Be it enacted by the United States Senate

Section 1. Definitions “English language proficiency test” shall be defined as a test taken by
(2) students to determine their proficiency in the spoken, written, and heard English language.
(3) “Public middle and high school students” shall be defined as all students in grades six (6)
(4) through twelve (12) attending state-funded schools. “Classes taught in English” shall be
(5) defined as all classes with over seventy-five (75) percent of instruction in English, intended
(6) to be taken by students who are proficient in the English language.

Section 2. Purpose The placement of students who are unable to speak English proficiently
(2) into classes taught in English puts these students at an unnecessary disadvantage, and hinders
(3) the ability of other English-speaking students in these classes to learn effectively. Requiring a
(4) proficiency test of all students would eliminate this growing problem.

Section 3. Provisions At the same time sixth (6th) graders receive vision and hearing testing in
(2) public schools, all sixth (6th) graders will be required to take a very short and basic English
(3) language test. The test will be developed by the Colorado Department of Education by way
(4) of subcommittee, using existing funding and personnel. The Department of Education will
(5) also determine who may proctor the test. Students that pass the test will never need to retake
(6) the test while still enrolled in Colorado public schools. New students to Colorado public
(7) schools will be required to pass the test before placement in classes taught in English.
(8) Students who do not pass the test will be required to enroll in “English as a Second
(9) Language” courses full time during the school day until they are able to pass the test. Upon
(10) passage, students will be allowed to enroll in classes.

Section 4. Special Provisions. *This is where you will insert your “pork.”*

Section 5. Penalty Clause Any school officials allowing students who have not passed the
(2) proficiency test in English to take classes taught in English shall be tried for failure to meet
(3) standards. The penalty shall be determined by a judge not to exceed one (1) year in jail and
(4) five hundred (500) dollars in fines.

Section 6. Appropriations Clause The test and all necessary provisions for its
(2) administration will be provided for under existing Department of Education funding, using
(3) existing personnel.

Section 7. Enactment Clause This bill will become effective one (1) year after the Department (2) of Education develops necessary tests and procedures, no later than the school year 2011- (3) 2012. The Department of Education shall be required to begin work on the test immediately.

Section 8. Safety Clause The Senate of the United States hereby finds, determines and (2) declares that this Act is necessary for the preservation of public health, peace and safety.