

Senate Study Bill 3092 - Introduced

SENATE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON QUIRMBACH)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing a state seal of biliteracy program to be
2 administered by the department of education.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 256.25 State seal of biliteracy.

2 1. *Definitions.* As used in this section, unless the context
3 otherwise requires:

4 a. "*Foreign language*" means any language other than English,
5 including but not limited to modern languages, Latin, American
6 sign language, and Native American and other native languages.

7 b. "*Seal*" means the state seal of biliteracy created under
8 this section.

9 2. *Seal of biliteracy program established.* A state seal
10 of biliteracy program is established in the department to be
11 administered by the department.

12 a. The program shall be established to achieve the following
13 purposes:

14 (1) To encourage students to study languages.

15 (2) To certify a student's attainment of biliteracy.

16 (3) To provide employers with a method of identifying
17 individuals with language and biliteracy skills.

18 (4) To provide postsecondary educational institutions with
19 an additional method to recognize applicants for admission.

20 (5) To complement the twenty-first century learning skills
21 and knowledge identified in accordance with section 256.7,
22 subsection 26.

23 (6) To recognize the value of foreign language and native
24 language instruction in this state's schools.

25 (7) To strengthen intergroup relationships, affirm the
26 value of diversity, and honor the multiple cultures and
27 languages of a community.

28 b. The department shall do all of the following:

29 (1) Establish the criteria for earning a seal of biliteracy,
30 including but not limited to requiring a student to demonstrate
31 proficiency by meeting local and state high school graduation
32 requirements in English, including passing scores on statewide
33 assessments and demonstrating proficiency in a foreign
34 language.

35 (2) Identify approved assessments of English and foreign

1 languages and the grades and scores necessary to demonstrate a
2 student's high level of proficiency in speaking, reading, and
3 writing in English and a foreign language.

4 (3) Prepare and deliver to participating school districts,
5 attendance centers, and accredited nonpublic schools a seal of
6 biliteracy for each qualified student and an appropriate seal
7 which may be affixed to a qualified student's transcript by the
8 participating school district, attendance center, or accredited
9 nonpublic school.

10 (4) Provide to a participating school district, attendance
11 center, and accredited nonpublic school any other information
12 which the department determines is necessary for successful
13 participation in the program.

14 3. *Voluntary participation — participation requirements.*

15 a. Participation in the program by a school district,
16 attendance center, or accredited nonpublic school shall be
17 voluntary.

18 b. A participating school district, attendance center, or
19 accredited nonpublic school shall do all of the following:

20 (1) Maintain appropriate records to identify students who
21 have earned a seal of biliteracy.

22 (2) Award to a qualified student the seal of biliteracy
23 issued by the department which shall be affixed to the
24 transcript of the qualified student.

25 4. *Demonstration of proficiency — fees.* In order to be
26 awarded a seal of biliteracy, a student shall demonstrate
27 the attainment of a high level of proficiency, sufficient
28 for meaningful use in postsecondary education and career
29 opportunities of one or more foreign languages. A student
30 shall not be charged a fee to receive a seal of biliteracy;
31 however, a student may be required to pay a fee to demonstrate
32 proficiency in a language, including the actual cost of a
33 standardized test to determine the level of the student's
34 proficiency.

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EXPLANATION

1 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
2 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

3 This bill establishes a state seal of biliteracy program to
4 be administered by the department of education.

5 CERTIFICATE. The state seal of biliteracy is established to
6 encourage students to study languages, to certify a student's
7 attainment of biliteracy and recognize the value of such
8 attainment, to provide employers with a method of identifying
9 individuals with such skills, to complement the 21st century
10 skills and knowledge identified by the department, to provide
11 colleges and universities with an additional method to
12 recognize applicants for admission, and to honor the multiple
13 cultures and languages of a community.

14 The department must establish criteria for earning a seal
15 of biliteracy; identify approved assessments and measures
16 necessary to demonstrate a student's high level of proficiency
17 in speaking, reading, and writing in English and a foreign
18 language; and prepare and deliver to participating school
19 districts, attendance centers, and accredited nonpublic schools
20 a seal of biliteracy for each qualified student, to be affixed
21 by the school district or school on the qualified student's
22 transcript, and providing any other information which the
23 department determines is necessary for successful participation
24 in the program.

25 Participation in the program is voluntary, but a
26 participating school district, attendance center, or accredited
27 nonpublic school must maintain appropriate records to identify
28 students who have earned a seal and must affix the seal on the
29 transcript of each student who earns a seal.

30 A student shall not be charged a fee to receive a seal;
31 however, a student may be required to pay a fee to demonstrate
32 proficiency in a language, including the actual cost of
33 a standardized test to determine the student's level of
34 proficiency.

35 The bill defines "foreign language" to mean any language

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1 other than English, including but not limited to modern
2 languages, Latin, American sign language, and Native American
3 and other native languages.