



Sen. Iris Y. Martinez

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10100HB3237sam001

LRB101 07410 AXK 60578 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 3237

2 AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_. Amend House Bill 3237 by replacing  
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing Section  
5 2-3.159 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.159)

7 Sec. 2-3.159. State Seal of Biliteracy.

8 (a) In this Section, "foreign language" means any language  
9 other than English, including all modern languages, Latin,  
10 American Sign Language, Native American languages, and native  
11 languages.

12 (b) The State Seal of Biliteracy program is established to  
13 recognize public high school graduates who have attained a high  
14 level of proficiency in one or more languages in addition to  
15 English. The State Seal of Biliteracy shall be awarded  
16 beginning with the 2014-2015 school year. School district

1 participation in this program is voluntary.

2 (c) The purposes of the State Seal of Biliteracy are as  
3 follows:

4 (1) To encourage pupils to study languages.

5 (2) To certify attainment of biliteracy.

6 (3) To provide employers with a method of identifying  
7 people with language and biliteracy skills.

8 (4) To provide universities with an additional method  
9 to recognize applicants seeking admission.

10 (5) To prepare pupils with 21st century skills.

11 (6) To recognize the value of foreign language and  
12 native language instruction in public schools.

13 (7) To strengthen intergroup relationships, affirm the  
14 value of diversity, and honor the multiple cultures and  
15 languages of a community.

16 (d) The State Seal of Biliteracy certifies attainment of a  
17 high level of proficiency, sufficient for meaningful use in  
18 college and a career, by a graduating public high school pupil  
19 in one or more languages in addition to English.

20 (e) The State Board of Education shall adopt such rules as  
21 may be necessary to establish the criteria that pupils must  
22 achieve to earn a State Seal of Biliteracy, which may include  
23 without limitation attainment of units of credit in English  
24 language arts and languages other than English and passage of  
25 such assessments of foreign language proficiency as may be  
26 approved by the State Board of Education for this purpose.

1 These rules shall ensure that the criteria that pupils must  
2 achieve to earn a State Seal of Biliteracy meet the course  
3 credit criteria established under subsection (i) of this  
4 Section.

5 (e-5) To demonstrate sufficient English language  
6 proficiency for eligibility to receive a State Seal of  
7 Biliteracy under this Section, the State Board of Education  
8 shall allow a pupil to provide his or her school district with  
9 evidence of completion of any of the following, in accordance  
10 with guidelines for proficiency adopted by the State Board:

11 (1) An AP (Advanced Placement) English Language and  
12 Composition Exam.

13 (2) An English language arts dual credit course.

14 (3) Transitional coursework in English language arts  
15 articulated in partnership with a public community college  
16 as an ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) College and Career  
17 Readiness Indicator.

18 (f) The State Board of Education shall do both of the  
19 following:

20 (1) Prepare and deliver to participating school  
21 districts an appropriate mechanism for designating the  
22 State Seal of Biliteracy on the diploma and transcript of  
23 the pupil indicating that the pupil has been awarded a  
24 State Seal of Biliteracy by the State Board of Education.

25 (2) Provide other information the State Board of  
26 Education deems necessary for school districts to

1           successfully participate in the program.

2           (g) A school district that participates in the program  
3 under this Section shall do both of the following:

4           (1) Maintain appropriate records in order to identify  
5 pupils who have earned a State Seal of Biliteracy.

6           (2) Make the appropriate designation on the diploma and  
7 transcript of each pupil who earns a State Seal of  
8 Biliteracy.

9           (h) No fee shall be charged to a pupil to receive the  
10 designation pursuant to this Section. Notwithstanding this  
11 prohibition, costs may be incurred by the pupil in  
12 demonstrating proficiency, including without limitation any  
13 assessments required under subsection (e) of this Section.

14           (i) For admissions purposes, each public university in this  
15 State shall accept the State Seal of Biliteracy as equivalent  
16 to 2 years of foreign language coursework taken during high  
17 school if a student's high school transcript indicates that he  
18 or she will be receiving or has received the State Seal of  
19 Biliteracy.

20           (j) Each public community college and public university in  
21 this State shall establish criteria to translate a State Seal  
22 of Biliteracy into course credit based on foreign language  
23 course equivalencies identified by the community college's or  
24 university's faculty and staff and, upon request from an  
25 enrolled student, the community college or university shall  
26 award foreign language course credit to a student who has

1 received a State Seal of Biliteracy. Students enrolled in a  
2 public community college or public university who have received  
3 a State Seal of Biliteracy must request course credit for their  
4 seal within 3 academic years after graduating from high school.  
5 (Source: P.A. 98-560, eff. 8-27-13; 98-756, eff. 7-16-14;  
6 99-600, eff. 1-1-17.)

7 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
8 becoming law."