



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SB 1239

schools; state seal of biliteracy

Prime Sponsor: Senator Begay, LD 7

DP Committee on Education

DPA Caucus and COW

X House Engrossed

OVERVIEW

SB 1239 establishes the State Seal of Biliteracy Program (Program).

PROVISIONS

1. Directs the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) to establish the Program to recognize students who have attained a high level of proficiency in one or more languages other than English.
2. Instructs the SPI to:
 - a. Create a State Seal of Biliteracy (seal) to be affixed on to the student's diploma and noted on their transcript.
 - b. Deliver the seal to each school district or charter school that participates in the Program.
3. Allows any school district or charter school to participate in the Program by notifying the SPI.
4. Requires each school district or charter school participating in the Program to:
 - a. Identify the students who have met the requirements to be awarded the seal.
 - b. Affix the seal to the student's diploma and note it on the transcripts.
5. Requires the Arizona State Board of Education (SBE), in collaboration with the Arizona Department of Education, to adopt a list of assessments using researched-based methodology to determine a student's proficiency in a language other than English.
6. Allows SBE to adopt rules to carry out the purpose of the Program.
7. Requires a school district or charter school to award a diploma with the seal to students who graduate and meet the following requirements:
 - a. Successfully complete all English Language Arts requirements for graduation with an overall grade point average of 2.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale;
 - b. Pass the end-of-course examinations in English Language Arts;
 - c. Demonstrate proficiency in one or more languages other than English by meeting the requirements set by SBE.
 - d. Obtain a score of proficient or higher based on the English language proficiency standards, if the student has a primary language other than English.
8. Sunsets the Program on July 1, 2026.
9. Contains an emergency clause.

CURRENT LAW

Not currently addressed in statute.

Fifty-second Legislature
Second Regular Session

House Engrossed