

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-second Legislature
Second Regular Session
2016

SENATE BILL 1239

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 15, CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE 3, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING SECTION 15-258; RELATING TO THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Title 15, chapter 2, article 3, Arizona Revised Statutes,
3 is amended by adding section 15-258, to read:

4 15-258. State seal of biliteracy program; requirements;
5 diploma; program termination

6 A. THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION SHALL ESTABLISH A STATE
7 SEAL OF BILITERACY PROGRAM TO RECOGNIZE STUDENTS WHO GRADUATE FROM A SCHOOL
8 OPERATED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR A CHARTER SCHOOL LOCATED IN THIS STATE AND
9 WHO HAVE ATTAINED A HIGH LEVEL OF PROFICIENCY IN ONE OR MORE LANGUAGES IN
10 ADDITION TO ENGLISH.

11 B. THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION SHALL:

12 1. CREATE A STATE SEAL OF BILITERACY THAT SHALL BE AFFIXED TO THE
13 DIPLOMA AND NOTED ON THE TRANSCRIPT OF A STUDENT TO RECOGNIZE THAT THE
14 STUDENT HAS MET THE REQUIREMENTS PRESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION.

15 2. DELIVER THE STATE SEAL OF BILITERACY TO EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
16 OR CHARTER SCHOOL THAT PARTICIPATES IN THE PROGRAM.

17 C. ANY SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL MAY VOLUNTARILY PARTICIPATE
18 IN THE STATE SEAL OF BILITERACY PROGRAM BY NOTIFYING THE SUPERINTENDENT OF
19 PUBLIC INSTRUCTION OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S OR CHARTER SCHOOL'S INTENT TO
20 PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM.

21 D. EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD OR CHARTER SCHOOL GOVERNING
22 BODY THAT PARTICIPATES IN THE STATE SEAL OF BILITERACY PROGRAM SHALL:

23 1. IDENTIFY THE STUDENTS WHO HAVE MET THE REQUIREMENTS TO BE AWARDED
24 THE STATE SEAL OF BILITERACY.

25 2. AFFIX THE STATE SEAL OF BILITERACY TO THE DIPLOMA AND NOTE THE
26 RECEIPT OF THE STATE SEAL OF BILITERACY ON THE TRANSCRIPT OF EACH STUDENT WHO
27 MEETS THOSE REQUIREMENTS.

28 E. THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT
29 OF EDUCATION, SHALL ADOPT A LIST OF ASSESSMENTS USING RESEARCHED-BASED
30 METHODOLOGY TO DETERMINE A STUDENT'S PROFICIENCY IN A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN
31 ENGLISH AND MAY ADOPT RULES AS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSES OF THIS
32 SECTION.

33 F. A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL THAT PARTICIPATES IN THE STATE
34 SEAL OF BILITERACY PROGRAM ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION SHALL AWARD A
35 STUDENT, ON GRADUATION FROM HIGH SCHOOL, A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA WITH A STATE
36 SEAL OF BILITERACY IF THE STUDENT MEETS ALL OF THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

37 1. SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES ALL ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS REQUIREMENTS FOR
38 GRADUATION WITH AN OVERALL GRADE POINT AVERAGE IN THOSE CLASSES OF 2.0 OR
39 HIGHER ON A 4.0 SCALE, OR THE EQUIVALENT.

40 2. PASSES THE END-OF-COURSE EXAMINATIONS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS
41 REQUIRED PURSUANT TO SECTION 15-755.

42 3. DEMONSTRATES PROFICIENCY IN ONE OR MORE LANGUAGES OTHER THAN
43 ENGLISH BY MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION E OF THIS
44 SECTION.

1 4. IF THE STUDENT HAS A PRIMARY LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH, OBTAINS A
2 SCORE OF PROFICIENT OR HIGHER BASED ON THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY
3 STANDARDS, PURSUANT TO SECTION 15-756.

4 G. THE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION ENDS ON JULY 1,
5 2026 PURSUANT TO SECTION 41-3102.

6 Sec. 2. Emergency

7 This act is an emergency measure that is necessary to preserve the
8 public peace, health or safety and is operative immediately as provided by
9 law.