

Introduced by

Senators Oban, G. Lee, Mathern

Representatives Pyle, Schreiber-Beck, Guggisberg

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15.1-02 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to a seal of biliteracy program.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 15.1-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
5 and enacted as follows:

6 **Seal of biliteracy - Program and award.**

7 1. The superintendent of public instruction shall develop and administer a seal of
8 biliteracy program to encourage the study of languages and to recognize each student
9 who has attained a high level of proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing
10 in one or more languages, in addition to English, by the date of the student's high
11 school graduation. Each school district shall notify every student entering middle
12 school or high school in the district in writing of the opportunity to receive the seal of
13 biliteracy award.

14 2. To be eligible for the seal of biliteracy award under this section, a student:
15 a. Must be a high school senior;
16 b. Must be enrolled in a public or nonpublic school under the authority of the
17 superintendent of public instruction;
18 c. Shall demonstrate at least an intermediate mid-level or advanced low-level of
19 functional proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in one or more
20 languages in addition to English on assessments aligned to the American council
21 on the teaching of foreign languages proficiency guidelines, or on equivalently
22 valid and reliable assessments as determined by the superintendent of public
23 instruction; and

- 1 d. Must be nominated for the award by the school district in which the student is
2 enrolled. A school district may exempt a student with a documented physical,
3 cognitive, or learning disability from providing a demonstration of proficiency in
4 one or more of the modes of communication required under subdivision c when
5 considering the student for potential nomination.
- 6 3. a. Each school district shall administer assessments to determine proficiency in
7 languages other than English. A student who wishes to be considered for the seal
8 of biliteracy award is responsible for the costs associated with the administration
9 of any required assessment.
- 10 b. (1) A student may demonstrate proficiency in English by meeting the English
11 language arts requirements necessary for high school graduation or by
12 passing a validated assessment of proficiency for English learners aligned
13 with the American council on the teaching of foreign languages proficiency
14 guidelines, or as determined by the superintendent of public instruction.
- 15 (2) A student may demonstrate proficiency in a language in addition to English
16 by passing a validated assessment of proficiency aligned with the American
17 council on the teaching of foreign languages proficiency guidelines or by
18 passing an assessment in the language, as determined by the
19 superintendent of public instruction as being valid to demonstrate
20 proficiency in the language.
- 21 c. Each year, a school district may nominate eligible high school seniors for the seal
22 of biliteracy award. The superintendent of public instruction shall award a student
23 who meets the eligibility requirements of this subsection:
- 24 (1) A silver seal of biliteracy for demonstrating at least an intermediate mid-level
25 of functional proficiency in the listening, speaking, reading, and writing in
26 one or more languages in addition to English; or
- 27 (2) A gold seal of biliteracy for demonstrating at least an advanced low-level of
28 functional proficiency in the listening, speaking, reading, and writing in one
29 or more languages in addition to English.

- 1 d. The superintendent of public instruction shall present each recipient a certificate
2 signed by the superintendent. The seal of biliteracy must be indicated on the high
3 school transcript of any student who receives the award.
- 4 4. For the purposes of this section, American sign language is a language other than
5 English.