

As Reported by the House Education Committee

131st General Assembly

Regular Session

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Sub. H. B. No. 487

Representatives LaTourette, Roegner

Cosponsors: Representatives Blessing, Bocchieri, Ginter, Perales, Smith, K.

A BILL

To amend sections 3313.618 and 3313.6110 and to
enact section 3313.6111 of the Revised Code to
require the State Board of Education to
establish the State Seal of Biliteracy to be
attached or affixed to the high school
transcripts or diplomas of qualifying students.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 3313.618 and 3313.6110 be amended
and section 3313.6111 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as
follows:

Sec. 3313.618. (A) In addition to the applicable
curriculum requirements, each student entering ninth grade for
the first time on or after July 1, 2014, shall satisfy at least
one of the following conditions in order to qualify for a high
school diploma:

(1) Be remediation-free, in accordance with standards
adopted under division (F) of section 3345.061 of the Revised
Code, on each of the nationally standardized assessments in
English, mathematics, and reading;

(2) Attain a score specified under division (B) (5) (c) of 19
section 3301.0712 of the Revised Code on the end-of-course 20
examinations prescribed under division (B) of section 3301.0712 21
of the Revised Code. 22

(3) Attain a score that demonstrates workforce readiness 23
and employability on a nationally recognized job skills 24
assessment selected by the state board of education under 25
division (G) of section 3301.0712 of the Revised Code and obtain 26
either an industry-recognized credential, as described under 27
division (B) (2) (d) of section 3302.03 of the Revised Code, or a 28
license issued by a state agency or board for practice in a 29
vocation that requires an examination for issuance of that 30
license. 31

The state board shall approve the industry-recognized 32
credentials and licenses that may qualify a student for a high 33
school diploma under division (A) (3) of this section. 34

A student may choose to qualify for a high school diploma 35
by satisfying any of the separate requirements prescribed by 36
divisions (A) (1) to (3) of this section. If the student's school 37
district or school does not administer the examination 38
prescribed by one of those divisions that the student chooses to 39
take to satisfy the requirements of this section, the school 40
district or school may require that student to arrange for the 41
applicable scores to be sent directly to the district or school 42
by the company or organization that administers the examination. 43

(B) The state board of education shall not create or 44
require any additional assessment for the granting of any type 45
of high school diploma other than as prescribed by this section. 46
~~The~~ Except as provided in section 3313.6111 of the Revised Code, 47
the state board shall not create any endorsement or designation 48

that may be affiliated with a high school diploma. 49

Sec. 3313.6110. (A) A person who has completed the final 50
year of instruction at home, as authorized under section 3321.04 51
of the Revised Code, and has successfully fulfilled the high 52
school curriculum applicable to that person may be granted a 53
high school diploma by the person's parent, guardian, or other 54
person having charge or care of a child, as defined in division 55
(A) (1) of section 3321.01 of the Revised Code. 56

(B) Beginning with diplomas issued on or after July 1, 57
2015, each diploma granted under division (A) of this section 58
shall contain either of the following: 59

(1) Certification signed by the superintendent of the 60
school district in which the student is entitled to attend 61
school in a school district under section 3313.64 or 3313.65 of 62
the Revised Code that the student and the student's parent have 63
complied with state law regarding home instruction. The 64
statement of certification shall read as follows: 65

"I certify that the student named in this diploma and the 66
student's parent have complied with division (A) (2) of section 67
3321.04 of the Ohio Revised Code regarding instruction at home 68
and the related rules of the Ohio State Board of Education." 69

A superintendent presented with such diploma for signature 70
shall sign the diploma if the student and the parent have 71
complied with division (A) (2) of section 3321.04 of the Revised 72
Code. 73

(2) The official letter of excuse issued by the district 74
superintendent for the student's final year of home education. 75

(C) A person who has graduated from a nonchartered 76
nonpublic school in Ohio and who has successfully fulfilled that 77

school's high school curriculum may be granted a high school diploma by the governing authority of that school.

(D) Notwithstanding anything in the Revised Code to the contrary, a diploma granted under this section shall serve as proof of the successful completion of that person's applicable high school curriculum and satisfactory to fulfill any legal requirement to show such proof.

(E) For the purposes of an application for employment, a diploma granted under this section shall be considered proof of completion of a high school education, regardless of whether the person to which the diploma was granted participated in the assessments prescribed by division (A) (1) or (B) (1) or (2) of section 3301.0710 and section 3301.0712 of the Revised Code.

(F) A diploma granted under division (A) of this section may include a state seal of biliteracy that may be assigned to the student's diploma, by the parent, guardian, or other person having charge or care of the student, in the same manner as prescribed for transcripts issued by school districts and chartered nonpublic schools under section 3313.6111 of the Revised Code.

Sec. 3313.6111. (A) The state board of education shall establish the state seal of biliteracy, which may be attached or affixed to the high school transcript of a student enrolled in a public or chartered nonpublic school. The state seal of biliteracy shall demonstrate the attainment of a high level of proficiency by a graduate of a public or chartered nonpublic high school in one or more languages in addition to English, sufficient for meaningful use in college and a career. The purpose of the state seal of biliteracy shall be to:

<u>(1) Encourage students to study languages;</u>	107
<u>(2) Certify the attainment of biliteracy;</u>	108
<u>(3) Provide employers with a method of identifying</u> <u>individuals with language and biliteracy skills;</u>	109 110
<u>(4) Provide institutions of higher education with an</u> <u>additional method to recognize applicants for admission;</u>	111 112
<u>(5) Prepare students with twenty-first century skills;</u>	113
<u>(6) Recognize the value of foreign language and native</u> <u>language instruction in public schools; and</u>	114 115
<u>(7) Strengthen inter-group relationships, affirm the value</u> <u>of diversity, and honor the multiple cultures and languages of a</u> <u>community.</u>	116 117 118
<u>(B) (1) A school district, community school established</u> <u>under Chapter 3314. of the Revised Code, STEM school established</u> <u>under Chapter 3326. of the Revised Code, college-preparatory</u> <u>boarding school established under Chapter 3328. of the Revised</u> <u>Code, or chartered nonpublic school may attach or affix the</u> <u>state seal of biliteracy to the transcript of a student enrolled</u> <u>in the school who meets the requirements prescribed under</u> <u>division (C) (1) of this section. A district or school shall not</u> <u>be required to attach or affix the state seal of biliteracy on</u> <u>the transcript of a student enrolled in the school.</u>	119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128
<u>(2) Each school district, community school, STEM school,</u> <u>college-preparatory boarding school, and chartered nonpublic</u> <u>school shall maintain appropriate records to identify students</u> <u>who have completed the requirements for earning a state seal of</u> <u>biliteracy as prescribed under division (C) (1) of this section,</u> <u>and if the district or school has a policy of attaching or</u>	129 130 131 132 133 134

affixing the state seal of biliteracy to student transcripts, 135
the district or school shall make the appropriate designation on 136
the transcript of a student who completes the requirements. 137

(C) The state board of education shall do the following: 138

(1) Establish the requirements and criteria for earning a 139
state seal of biliteracy, including assessments of foreign 140
language and English proficiency. 141

(2) Direct the department of education to prepare and 142
deliver to participating school districts, community schools, 143
STEM schools, college-preparatory boarding schools, and 144
chartered nonpublic schools an appropriate mechanism for 145
assigning a state seal of biliteracy on a student's transcript 146
indicating that the student has been assigned the seal; 147

(3) Direct the department to provide any other information 148
the state board considers necessary for school districts, 149
community schools, STEM schools, college-preparatory boarding 150
schools, and chartered nonpublic schools to participate in the 151
assigning of a state seal of biliteracy; 152

(4) Adopt rules in accordance with Chapter 119. of the 153
Revised Code to implement the provisions of this section. 154

(D) A student shall not be charged a fee to be assigned a 155
state seal of biliteracy on their transcript. A student may be 156
required to pay a fee to demonstrate proficiency in a language, 157
including the cost of a standardized test to determine 158
proficiency in a language. 159

(E) As used in this section, "foreign language" refers to 160
any language other than English, including modern languages, 161
Latin, American sign language, native American languages, and 162
native languages. 163

Section 2. That existing sections 3313.618 and 3313.6110 164
of the Revised Code are hereby repealed. 165