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**131st General Assembly**

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**Sub. H. B. No. 487**

**Representatives LaTourette, Roegner**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Blessing, Boccieri, Ginter, Perales, Smith, K., Antonio, Arndt, Baker, Bishoff, Boyce, Boyd, Celebrezze, Craig, DeVitis, Dovilla, Fedor, Green, Howse, Johnson, G., Johnson, T., Koehler, Kuhns, Landis, Leland, Lepore-Hagan, Manning, O'Brien, M., Patterson, Pelanda, Ramos, Rogers, Sheehy, Sprague, Strahorn, Sweeney, Sykes**

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**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 section 3301.0712 of the Revised Code on the end-of-course examinations prescribed under division (B) of section 3301.0712 of the Revised Code.

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

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

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

(B) The state board of education shall not create or

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 78  
diploma by the governing authority of that school. 79

(D) Notwithstanding anything in the Revised Code to the 80  
contrary, a diploma granted under this section shall serve as 81  
proof of the successful completion of that person's applicable 82  
high school curriculum and satisfactory to fulfill any legal 83  
requirement to show such proof. 84

(E) For the purposes of an application for employment, a 85  
diploma granted under this section shall be considered proof of 86  
completion of a high school education, regardless of whether the 87  
person to which the diploma was granted participated in the 88  
assessments prescribed by division (A) (1) or (B) (1) or (2) of 89  
section 3301.0710 and section 3301.0712 of the Revised Code. 90

(F) A diploma granted under division (A) of this section 91  
may include a state seal of biliteracy that may be assigned to 92  
the student's diploma, by the parent, guardian, or other person 93  
having charge or care of the student, in the same manner as 94  
prescribed for transcripts issued by school districts and 95  
chartered nonpublic schools under section 3313.6111 of the 96  
Revised Code. 97

**Sec. 3313.6111.** (A) The state board of education shall 98  
establish the state seal of biliteracy, which may be attached or 99  
affixed to the high school transcript of a student enrolled in a 100  
public or chartered nonpublic school. The state seal of 101  
biliteracy shall demonstrate the attainment of a high level of 102

proficiency by a graduate of a public or chartered nonpublic 103  
high school in one or more languages in addition to English, 104  
sufficient for meaningful use in college and a career. The 105  
purpose of the state seal of biliteracy shall be to: 106

(1) Encourage students to study languages; 107

(2) Certify the attainment of biliteracy; 108

(3) Provide employers with a method of identifying 109  
individuals with language and biliteracy skills; 110

(4) Provide institutions of higher education with an 111  
additional method to recognize applicants for admission; 112

(5) Prepare students with twenty-first century skills; 113

(6) Recognize the value of foreign language and native 114  
language instruction in public schools; and 115

(7) Strengthen inter-group relationships, affirm the value 116  
of diversity, and honor the multiple cultures and languages of a 117  
community. 118

(B)(1) A school district, community school established 119  
under Chapter 3314. of the Revised Code, STEM school established 120  
under Chapter 3326. of the Revised Code, college-preparatory 121  
boarding school established under Chapter 3328. of the Revised 122  
Code, or chartered nonpublic school may attach or affix the 123  
state seal of biliteracy to the transcript of a student enrolled 124  
in the school who meets the requirements prescribed under 125  
division (C)(1) of this section. A district or school shall not 126  
be required to attach or affix the state seal of biliteracy on 127  
the transcript of a student enrolled in the school. 128

(2) Each school district, community school, STEM school, 129  
college-preparatory boarding school, and chartered nonpublic 130

school shall maintain appropriate records to identify students 131  
who have completed the requirements for earning a state seal of 132  
biliteracy as prescribed under division (C) (1) of this section, 133  
and if the district or school has a policy of attaching or 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