



Rep. Cynthia Soto

**Filed: 5/8/2013**

09800SB1221ham001

LRB098 07343 NHT 45440 a

1 AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 1221

2 AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_. Amend Senate Bill 1221 by replacing  
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 1. Legislative intent.

5 (a) It is the intent of the legislature to encourage  
6 excellence for all pupils, and the legislature wishes to  
7 publicly recognize pupils for exemplary achievements in  
8 academic studies.

9 (b) The study of languages other than English in elementary  
10 and secondary schools should be encouraged because it  
11 contributes to a pupil's cognitive development and to our  
12 national economy and security.

13 (c) Proficiency in multiple languages is critical in  
14 enabling this State to participate effectively in a global  
15 political, social, and economic context and in expanding trade  
16 with other countries.

17 (d) The demand for employees to be fluent in more than one

1 language is increasing both in this State and throughout the  
2 world.

3 (e) The benefits to employers in having staff fluent in  
4 more than one language are clear: access to an expanded market,  
5 allowing business owners to better serve their customers'  
6 needs, and the sparking of new marketing ideas that better  
7 target a particular audience and open a channel of  
8 communication with customers and businesses in other  
9 countries.

10 (f) It is the intent of the legislature to promote  
11 linguistic proficiency and cultural literacy in one or more  
12 languages in addition to English and to provide recognition of  
13 the attainment of those needed and important skills through the  
14 establishment of the State Seal of Biliteracy. A State Seal of  
15 Biliteracy would be designated on the high school diplomas and  
16 transcripts of graduating public school pupils attaining  
17 proficiency in one or more languages in addition to English.

18 Section 5. The School Code is amended by adding Section  
19 2-3.157 as follows:

20 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.157 new)

21 Sec. 2-3.157. State Seal of Biliteracy.

22 (a) In this Section, "foreign language" means any language  
23 other than English, including all modern languages, Latin,  
24 American Sign Language, Native American languages, and native

1 languages.

2 (b) The State Seal of Biliteracy program is established to  
3 recognize public high school graduates who have attained a high  
4 level of proficiency in one or more languages in addition to  
5 English. The State Seal of Biliteracy shall be awarded  
6 beginning with the 2014-2015 school year. School district  
7 participation in this program is voluntary.

8 (c) The purposes of the State Seal of Biliteracy are as  
9 follows:

10 (1) To encourage pupils to study languages.

11 (2) To certify attainment of biliteracy.

12 (3) To provide employers with a method of identifying  
13 people with language and biliteracy skills.

14 (4) To provide universities with an additional method  
15 to recognize applicants seeking admission.

16 (5) To prepare pupils with 21st century skills.

17 (6) To recognize the value of foreign language and  
18 native language instruction in public schools.

19 (7) To strengthen intergroup relationships, affirm the  
20 value of diversity, and honor the multiple cultures and  
21 languages of a community.

22 (d) The State Seal of Biliteracy certifies attainment of a  
23 high level of proficiency, sufficient for meaningful use in  
24 college and a career, by a graduating public high school pupil  
25 in one or more languages in addition to English.

26 (e) The State Board of Education shall adopt such rules as

1 may be necessary to establish the criteria that pupils must  
2 achieve to earn a State Seal of Biliteracy, which may include  
3 without limitation attainment of units of credit in English  
4 language arts and languages other than English and passage of  
5 such assessments of foreign language proficiency as may be  
6 approved by the State Board of Education for this purpose.

7 (f) The State Board of Education shall do both of the  
8 following:

9 (1) Prepare and deliver to participating school  
10 districts an appropriate mechanism for designating the  
11 State Seal of Biliteracy on the diploma and transcript of  
12 the pupil indicating that the pupil has been awarded a  
13 State Seal of Biliteracy by the State Board of Education.

14 (2) Provide other information the State Board of  
15 Education deems necessary for school districts to  
16 successfully participate in the program.

17 (g) A school district that participates in the program  
18 under this Section shall do both of the following:

19 (1) Maintain appropriate records in order to identify  
20 pupils who have earned a State Seal of Biliteracy.

21 (2) Make the appropriate designation on the diploma and  
22 transcript of each pupil who earns a State Seal of  
23 Biliteracy.

24 (h) No fee shall be charged to a pupil to receive the  
25 designation pursuant to this Section. Notwithstanding this  
26 prohibition, costs may be incurred by the pupil in

1 demonstrating proficiency, including without limitation any  
2 assessments required under subsection (e) of this Section.

3 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,  
4 2013.".