

**Maryland General Assembly  
Department of Legislative Services**

**Proposed Regulations  
State Board of Education  
(DLS Control No. 16-214)**

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**Overview and Legal and Fiscal Impact**

The regulations establish and provide for the administration of the Maryland Seal of Biliteracy Program within the State Department of Education.

The regulations present no legal issues of concern.

There is no fiscal impact on State or local agencies.

**Regulations of COMAR Affected**

**State Board of Education:**

General Instruction Programs: COMAR 13A.03.07.01 through .05

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**Legal Analysis**

**Background**

The concept of a Seal of Biliteracy was developed by California Together in 2008 to recognize graduating high school students who are highly proficient in English and another language. In 2013, the department established a workgroup comprised of local school systems, nonprofit organizations, and institutions of higher education to develop rationale and guidelines for a voluntary seal of biliteracy program in the State. Chapter 232 of 2016 established the Maryland Seal of Biliteracy Program. In response, the department reconvened and expanded the workgroup to revisit the guidelines and draft the regulations required by Chapter 232. The workgroup continues to meet to discuss logistics and develop resources for local school systems that choose to participate in the program.

**Summary of Regulations**

The regulations establish and provide for the administration of the Maryland Seal of Biliteracy Program. More specifically, the regulations provide for:

- the purpose of the Program;
- participation in the Program by local school systems;

- how a student must demonstrate proficiency in English and world languages to receive a Seal of Biliteracy; and
- how the Seal of Biliteracy must be awarded to eligible students.

## **Legal Issues**

The regulations present no legal issues of concern.

### **Statutory Authority and Legislative Intent**

The State Board of Education cites § 7-208 of the Education Article as statutory authority for the regulations. Section 7-208, established by Chapter 232 of 2016, requires the State board to adopt regulations to implement the Maryland Seal of Biliteracy Program.

The authority is correct and complete. The regulations comply with the legislative intent of the law.

## **Fiscal Analysis**

There is no fiscal impact on State or local agencies.

### **Agency Estimate of Projected Fiscal Impact**

The Maryland State Department of Education advises that the regulations have no impact on State or local governments. The Department of Legislative Services concurs. Chapter 232 of 2016 (Senate Bill 781) established a Maryland Seal of Biliteracy Program to recognize public high school graduates who have attained proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing one or more languages in addition to English. Participation in the program by a local public school system is voluntary. Chapter 232 requires the Maryland State Department of Education to adopt regulations to implement the program. Local school systems that participate will incur minimal costs. However, the regulations do not further impact State or local finances.

### **Impact on Budget**

There is no impact on the State operating or capital budget.

### **Agency Estimate of Projected Small Business Impact**

The department advises that the regulations have minimal or no economic impact on small businesses in the State. The Department of Legislative Services concurs.

## **Contact Information**

**Legal Analysis:** Tiffany J. Clark – (410) 946/(301) 970-5350

**Fiscal Analysis:** Scott P. Gates – (410) 946/(301) 970-5510