

HOUSE BILL 708

F1
HB 166/15 – W&M

6lr3024
CF SB 781

By: **Delegates Gutierrez, Angel, B. Barnes, Barve, Branch, Carr, Carter, Chang, Clippinger, Cullison, Davis, Fraser-Hidalgo, Frick, Gilchrist, Hammen, Hill, Hornberger, C. Howard, Jones, Kelly, Korman, Kramer, Krebs, Lierman, Luedtke, McIntosh, A. Miller, Moon, Morales, Pena-Melnyk, Pendergrass, Platt, Proctor, Reznik, B. Robinson, S. Robinson, Rosenberg, Smith, Tarlau, Turner, Valderrama, Valentino-Smith, Waldstreicher, Walker, A. Washington, M. Washington, and K. Young**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2016

Assigned to: Ways and Means

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: April 4, 2016

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Maryland Seal of Biliteracy Act – Establishment**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland Seal of Biliteracy Program; providing for the
4 purpose of the Program; providing that participation in the Program by a local school
5 system is voluntary; providing that, beginning with a certain graduating class,
6 certain students shall receive a certain seal under certain circumstances; requiring
7 the State Board of Education to establish certain criteria and requirements by a
8 certain date; requiring the State Board to provide certain information regarding the
9 Program to certain local school systems by a certain date; requiring certain local
10 school systems to maintain certain records; requiring certain local school systems to
11 affix a certain seal to certain academic documents under certain circumstances;
12 requiring the State Board to adopt certain regulations; defining certain terms; and
13 generally relating to the Maryland Seal of Biliteracy Program.

14 BY adding to

15 Article – Education

16 Section 7–208

17 Annotated Code of Maryland

18 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
2 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

3 **Article – Education**

4 **7-208.**

5 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
6 INDICATED.

7 (2) “ELIGIBLE STUDENT” MEANS A STUDENT WHO ATTENDS A PUBLIC
8 HIGH SCHOOL THAT PARTICIPATES IN THE MARYLAND SEAL OF BILITERACY
9 PROGRAM.

10 (3) (I) “FOREIGN LANGUAGE” MEANS A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN
11 ENGLISH.

12 (II) “FOREIGN LANGUAGE” INCLUDES AMERICAN SIGN
13 LANGUAGE AND ANY NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGE.

14 (4) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE MARYLAND SEAL OF BILITERACY
15 PROGRAM.

16 (B) THERE IS A MARYLAND SEAL OF BILITERACY PROGRAM THAT
17 RECOGNIZES PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES IN THE STATE WHO HAVE ATTAINED
18 PROFICIENCY IN SPEAKING, READING, AND WRITING IN ONE OR MORE LANGUAGES
19 IN ADDITION TO ENGLISH.

20 (C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROMOTE LINGUISTIC
21 PROFICIENCY AND CULTURAL LITERACY IN ONE OR MORE LANGUAGES IN ADDITION
22 TO ENGLISH AND TO PROVIDE RECOGNITION OF THE ATTAINMENT OF THOSE SKILLS
23 BY AFFIXING A SEAL OF BILITERACY TO THE STUDENT’S DIPLOMA OR TRANSCRIPT
24 AT GRADUATION, AT NO COST TO THE STUDENT.

25 (D) (1) PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM BY A LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM IS
26 VOLUNTARY.

27 (2) IF A LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM CHOOSES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
28 PROGRAM, AN INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL MAY NOT OPT OUT OF PARTICIPATION IN THE
29 PROGRAM.

30 (E) (1) BEGINNING WITH THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2017, EACH
31 ELIGIBLE STUDENT WHO MEETS THE CRITERIA AND REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED

1 BY THE STATE BOARD IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (F)(1) OF THIS SECTION
2 SHALL RECEIVE A SEAL OF BILITERACY.

3 (2) A SEAL OF BILITERACY SHALL BE AFFIXED TO THE STUDENT'S
4 DIPLOMA OR TRANSCRIPT AT GRADUATION.

5 (F) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2016, THE STATE BOARD SHALL:

6 (1) ESTABLISH CRITERIA AND REQUIREMENTS A STUDENT MUST
7 MEET TO RECEIVE A SEAL OF BILITERACY; AND

8 (2) PROVIDE INFORMATION TO EACH LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM
9 REGARDING HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN AND HOW TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM.

10 (G) A LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM SHALL:

11 (1) MAINTAIN RECORDS NECESSARY FOR DETERMINING A STUDENT'S
12 ELIGIBILITY FOR A SEAL OF BILITERACY; AND

13 (2) AFFIX A SEAL OF BILITERACY TO THE DIPLOMA OR TRANSCRIPT
14 OF EVERY ELIGIBLE STUDENT MEETING THE CRITERIA AND REQUIREMENTS
15 ESTABLISHED BY THE STATE BOARD IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (F)(1) OF
16 THIS SECTION.

17 (H) THE STATE BOARD SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS
18 SECTION.

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
20 1, 2016.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.