

House Bill 879 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Taylor of the 79<sup>th</sup>, Reeves of the 34<sup>th</sup>, Stephens of the 164<sup>th</sup>, Beskin of the 54<sup>th</sup> and Marin of the 96<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 3 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia  
2 Annotated, relating to elementary and secondary educational programs, so as to provide for  
3 the issuance of a seal of biliteracy for high school graduates who have achieved a high level  
4 of proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing one or more languages in addition to  
5 English; to provide for criteria; to provide for participation; to provide for related matters;  
6 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Part 3 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
10 relating to elementary and secondary educational programs, is amended by adding a new  
11 Code section to read as follows:

12 "20-2-159.5.

13 (a) There is established a Georgia Seal of Biliteracy to recognize high school graduates  
14 who have attained a high level of proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing one or more  
15 languages in addition to English.

16 (b) The purposes of the Georgia Seal of Biliteracy are as follows:

17 (1) To encourage pupils to study foreign languages;

18 (2) To certify attainment of biliteracy;

19 (3) To provide employers with a method to identify people with language and biliteracy  
20 skills;

21 (4) To provide universities with a method to recognize and give academic credit to  
22 applicants seeking admission; and

23 (5) To recognize and promote foreign language instruction in public schools.

24 (c) In order to qualify for the Georgia Seal of Biliteracy, a high school graduate shall meet  
25 the following criteria:

- 26 (1) Completion of all English language arts requirements for graduation with an overall  
27 grade point average of 3.0 or above in those classes; and
- 28 (2) Proficiency in one or more languages other than English, demonstrated by passing  
29 a foreign language advanced placement examination with a score of 4 or higher or an  
30 international baccalaureate examination with a score of 5 or higher; provided, however,  
31 that for languages in which an advanced placement examination is not available, the  
32 Department of Education may provide a listing of equivalent summative examinations  
33 that local school systems may use in place of such an advanced placement examination.
- 34 (d)(1) A local school system participating in the Georgia Seal of Biliteracy program shall  
35 maintain appropriate records in order to identify pupils who have earned a Georgia Seal  
36 of Biliteracy and shall affix the appropriate insignia to the diploma or transcript of each  
37 pupil who earns such seal.
- 38 (2) Local school system participation in the Georgia Seal of Biliteracy program shall be  
39 voluntary. No local school system shall be required to expend additional resources or  
40 hire additional personnel to implement the provisions of this Code section.
- 41 (e) The Department of Education shall prepare and deliver to participating local school  
42 systems an appropriate insignia to be affixed to the diploma or transcript of the pupil  
43 indicating that such pupil has been awarded a Georgia Seal of Biliteracy."

44

**SECTION 2.**

45 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.