

HOUSE No. 533

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Martha M. Walz

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying:

An act to promote global trade and economic development through dual language and biliteracy .

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Martha M. Walz</i>	<i>8th Suffolk</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Denise Andrews</i>	<i>2nd Franklin</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>
<i>Antonio F. D. Cabral</i>	<i>13th Bristol</i>
<i>Carl M. Sciortino, Jr.</i>	<i>34th Middlesex</i>

HOUSE No. 533

By Ms. Walz of Boston, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 533) of Martha M. Walz and others for legislation to establish an office of dual language educational programs to promote and provide technical assistance to dual language educational programs in the Commonwealth . Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

An act to promote global trade and economic development through dual language and biliteracy .

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 1 to 3, inclusive, shall be known, and may be cited, as Dual
2 Language Educational Programs Act. It is the purpose of this Act to create the office of dual
3 language educational programs within the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education,
4 with the goal of promoting and expanding dual language educational programs in the
5 Commonwealth, and promoting long term economic development and trade between
6 Massachusetts and foreign countries.

7 SECTION 2. Chapter 15 of the General Laws as appearing in the 2010 Official Edition is
8 hereby amended by adding at the end thereof the following new section:

9 Section 67B. Office of Dual Language Educational Programs.

10 There shall be within the department of elementary and secondary education an office of dual
11 language educational programs, hereinafter referred to as the office. The office shall promote
12 and provide technical assistance to dual language educational programs in the commonwealth

13 The office shall be under the direction and supervision of a director who shall be appointed by
14 the Secretary of Education. The director shall coordinate with the Executive Office of Housing
15 and Economic Development and the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development to
16 identify those languages most useful in the industries and markets that contribute to economic
17 vitality in the commonwealth and jointly market Massachusetts students as prepared to
18 participate in a global economy.

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20 The office shall recruit qualified dual language instructors for programs in the state, and shall
21 be responsible for providing annual professional development programming for all dual language
22 educational instructors in the commonwealth and for educators who aspire to teach in dual
23 language programs and schools. Subject to appropriations, the office may provide grants to
24 school districts that operate a dual language educational program in the commonwealth. The

25 office shall facilitate relationships with representatives of foreign governments in order to
26 encourage student exchanges between the two countries. The goal of the office's activities shall
27 be the promotion of dual language educational programs in the commonwealth.

28 The office shall annually compile a report of best practices from the dual language educational
29 programs throughout the commonwealth and other states, distinguishing between the types of
30 dual language educational programs, and distribute the compiled list to all dual language
31 educational programs in the commonwealth.

32 The office shall annually transmit a report on dual language educational programs in the
33 commonwealth to the House and Senates Ways and Means Committees. The study shall include,
34 but not be limited to, an analysis, appraisal, evaluation and listing of all dual language
35 educational programs in the commonwealth. Such report shall document, with quantitative data,
36 the outcomes of each of the programs. The report should include best practices compiled by the
37 office, as well as recommendations on how to best improve the dual language educational
38 programs.

39 SECTION 3. Chapter 69 of the General Laws as appearing in the 2010 Official Edition is
40 hereby amended by adding after Section 1N the following new section:

41 Section 1O. The board shall establish the State Seal of Biliteracy to recognize high school
42 graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing in one
43 or more languages in addition to English. The Secretary of Education shall be responsible for
44 preparing and delivering to participating school districts the seal insignia. Participating school
45 districts shall be required to maintain records in order to identify pupils who have earned a State
46 Seal of Biliteracy and to affix an appropriate insignia to the diploma or transcript of pupils who
47 earn a State Seal of Biliteracy. These Seals would also be available electronically. School
48 district participation in this program is voluntary.

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50 The purposes of the State Seal of Biliteracy are as follows: (1) To encourage pupils to study
51 languages; (2) To certify attainment of biliteracy; (3) To provide employers with a method of
52 identifying people with language and biliteracy skills; (4) To provide universities with a method
53 to recognize and give academic credit to applicants seeking admission; (5) To prepare pupils
54 with 21st century skills; (6) To recognize and promote foreign language instruction in public
55 schools; (7)To strengthen intergroup relationships, affirm the value of diversity, and honor the
56 multiple cultures and languages of a community.

57 The State Seal of Biliteracy certifies attainment of a high level of proficiency by a graduating
58 high school pupil in one or more languages, in addition to English, and certifies that the graduate
59 meets all of the following criteria:

60 a) Completion of all English language arts requirements for graduation with an overall
61 grade point average of 2.0 or above in those classes.

62 b) Passing the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System Test in English language
63 arts administered in grade 10 at the proficient level or above.

64 c) Proficiency in one or more languages other than English, demonstrated through one of

65 the following methods:

66 (1) Passing a foreign language Advanced Placement examination with a score of 3 or higher
67 or an International Baccalaureate examination with a score of 4 or higher.

68 (2) Successful completion of a four-year high school course of study in a foreign language,
69 and attaining an overall grade point average of 3.0 or above in that course of study.

70 (3) Passing the SAT II foreign language examination with a score of 600 or higher.

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73 For purposes of this article, "foreign language" means a language other than English, and
74 includes American Sign Language.

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76 The Secretary of Education shall be responsible for: preparing and delivering to
77 participating school districts an appropriate insignia to be affixed to the diploma or transcript of
78 the pupil indicating that the pupil has been awarded a State Seal of Biliteracy by the
79 Superintendent; providing other information it deems necessary for school districts to
80 successfully participate in the program.

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82 A school district that participates in the program under this article shall ;maintain
83 appropriate records in order to identify pupils who have earned a State Seal of Biliteracy and
84 affix the appropriate insignia to the diploma or transcript of each pupil who earns a State Seal of
85 Biliteracy.

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