

Second Regular Session  
Seventieth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 16-1068.01 Julie Pelegrin x2700

HOUSE BILL 16-1365

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HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Moreno and Wilson, Priola, Landgraf, Lawrence, Pettersen

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

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House Committees  
Education

Senate Committees

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA ENDORSEMENT FOR  
102 BILITERACY.

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Bill Summary

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)*

The bill authorizes a school district, BOCES, or institute charter high school to grant a diploma endorsement in biliteracy to a student who demonstrates proficiency in English and at least one foreign language. The bill establishes the requirements a graduating high school student must meet to obtain the biliteracy endorsement.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2           **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add 22-7-1009.5** as  
3 follows:

4           **22-7-1009.5. Diploma endorsement - biliteracy - definitions.**

5 (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE  
6 REQUIRES:

7           (a) "ADVANCED PLACEMENT TEST" MEANS THE FINAL TEST  
8 ADMINISTERED AT THE COMPLETION OF A COURSE THAT DELIVERS A  
9 COLLEGE-LEVEL CURRICULUM IN A PARTICULAR FOREIGN LANGUAGE AND  
10 THAT MAY RESULT IN THE AWARDING OF COLLEGE CREDIT BASED ON THE  
11 SCORE ACHIEVED ON THE FINAL TEST.

12           (b) "FOREIGN LANGUAGE" MEANS A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN  
13 ENGLISH AND INCLUDES AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE.

14           (c) "INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE" MEANS A PROGRAM OF  
15 INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION OFFERED THROUGH A SCHOOL DISTRICT,  
16 BOCES, OR INSTITUTE CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL BY A NONPROFIT  
17 EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION.

18           (2) A SCHOOL DISTRICT, BOCES, OR INSTITUTE CHARTER HIGH  
19 SCHOOL MAY GRANT A DIPLOMA ENDORSEMENT IN BILITERACY TO A  
20 GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WHO ATTAINS PROFICIENCY OR  
21 HIGHER IN ONE OR MORE FOREIGN LANGUAGES IN ADDITION TO ATTAINING  
22 PROFICIENCY OR HIGHER IN ENGLISH. TO OBTAIN AN ENDORSEMENT IN  
23 BILITERACY, A GRADUATING STUDENT MUST:

24           (a) COMPLETE ALL OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS COURSE  
25 REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION FROM HIGH SCHOOL WITH AN OVERALL  
26 GRADE POINT AVERAGE OF AT LEAST 3.0 IN THE REQUIRED ENGLISH

1 LANGUAGE ARTS COURSES;

2 (b) ACHIEVE A SCORE THAT INDICATES PROFICIENCY OR HIGHER ON  
3 THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS PORTION OF THE CURRICULUM-BASED,  
4 ACHIEVEMENT COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAM ADMINISTERED TO  
5 ELEVENTH-GRADE STUDENTS PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-7-1006.3 (2); AND

6 (c) DEMONSTRATE PROFICIENCY OR HIGHER IN ONE OR MORE  
7 FOREIGN LANGUAGES BY:

8 (I) PASSING A FOREIGN LANGUAGE ADVANCED PLACEMENT TEST  
9 WITH A SCORE OF THREE OR HIGHER OR PASSING THE FOREIGN LANGUAGE  
10 PORTION OF AN INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE TEST WITH A SCORE OF  
11 FOUR OR HIGHER;

12 (II) SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING A FOUR-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL  
13 COURSE OF STUDY IN THE FOREIGN LANGUAGE AND ATTAINING AN  
14 OVERALL GRADE POINT AVERAGE OF AT LEAST 3.0 IN THE COURSE OF  
15 STUDY; OR

16 (III) ACHIEVING A PASSING SCORE ON THE FOREIGN LANGUAGE  
17 PORTION OF A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED TEST THAT IS RELIED UPON BY  
18 INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

19 (3) IF A STUDENT WHOSE PRIMARY LANGUAGE IS A FOREIGN  
20 LANGUAGE SEEKS TO OBTAIN A DIPLOMA ENDORSEMENT IN BILITERACY,  
21 THE STUDENT, IN ADDITION TO MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED IN  
22 SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION, MUST ATTAIN PROFICIENCY OR HIGHER  
23 ON THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY ASSESSMENT IDENTIFIED BY THE  
24 DEPARTMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 22-24-106.

25 (4) (a) FOR EACH FOREIGN LANGUAGE FOR WHICH AN ADVANCED  
26 PLACEMENT TEST IS NOT AVAILABLE, THE COMMISSIONER MAY IDENTIFY  
27 ONE OR MORE SUMMATIVE TESTS IN THE FOREIGN LANGUAGE THAT ARE

1 COMPARABLE IN RIGOR TO AN ADVANCED PLACEMENT TEST. THE  
2 COMMISSIONER MAY INCLUDE IN THE LIST A SUMMATIVE TEST CREATED OR  
3 IDENTIFIED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT, BOCES, OR INSTITUTE CHARTER HIGH  
4 SCHOOL.

5 (b) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF  
6 PARAGRAPH (c) OF SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION TO THE CONTRARY:

7 (I) A SCHOOL DISTRICT, BOCES, OR INSTITUTE CHARTER HIGH  
8 SCHOOL MAY USE A TEST IDENTIFIED BY THE COMMISSIONER IN PLACE OF  
9 AN ADVANCED PLACEMENT TEST FOR PURPOSES OF SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF  
10 PARAGRAPH (c) OF SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION;

11 (II) IF AN ADVANCED PLACEMENT TEST DOES NOT EXIST AND THE  
12 COMMISSIONER HAS NOT IDENTIFIED A COMPARABLE TEST FOR THE  
13 FOREIGN LANGUAGE A STUDENT STUDIES, THE SCHOOL DISTRICT, BOCES,  
14 OR INSTITUTE CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL MAY CREATE A TEST TO ADMINISTER  
15 TO THE STUDENT IN PLACE OF AN ADVANCED PLACEMENT TEST FOR  
16 PURPOSES OF SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF PARAGRAPH (c) OF SUBSECTION (2) OF  
17 THIS SECTION. THE SCHOOL DISTRICT, BOCES, OR INSTITUTE CHARTER  
18 HIGH SCHOOL MUST CERTIFY TO THE COMMISSIONER THAT THE TEST  
19 ASSESSES SPEAKING, READING, AND WRITING IN THE FOREIGN LANGUAGE  
20 AT A LEVEL THAT IS COMPARABLE IN RIGOR TO AN ADVANCED PLACEMENT  
21 TEST IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE OR COMPARABLE TO THE LEVEL OF A  
22 SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT ADMINISTERED AT THE COMPLETION OF A  
23 FOUR-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL COURSE OF STUDY IN THE FOREIGN LANGUAGE.  
24 THE STUDENT MUST PASS THE TEST AT THE PROFICIENT LEVEL OR HIGHER.

25 (III) IF AN ADVANCED PLACEMENT TEST EXISTS OR THE  
26 COMMISSIONER HAS IDENTIFIED A COMPARABLE TEST FOR A FOREIGN  
27 LANGUAGE, AND THE SCHOOL DISTRICT, BOCES, OR INSTITUTE CHARTER

1 HIGH SCHOOL CREATES AND USES AN ALTERNATIVE TEST FOR THAT  
2 FOREIGN LANGUAGE, THE COMMISSIONER MUST APPROVE THE SCHOOL  
3 DISTRICT'S, BOCES'S, OR INSTITUTE CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL'S TEST  
4 BEFORE THE SCHOOL DISTRICT, BOCES, OR INSTITUTE CHARTER HIGH  
5 SCHOOL MAY USE THE TEST TO DETERMINE A STUDENT'S LEVEL OF  
6 PROFICIENCY IN THE FOREIGN LANGUAGE IN PLACE OF AN ADVANCED  
7 PLACEMENT TEST FOR PURPOSES OF SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF PARAGRAPH (c)  
8 OF SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION.

9           **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
10 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
11 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August  
12 10, 2016, if adjournment sine die is on May 11, 2016); except that, if a  
13 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the  
14 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act  
15 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect  
16 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
17 November 2016 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
18 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.