

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 422**

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

***Kay Khan***

*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 adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to establish the state seal of biliteracy.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Kay Khan</i>	<i>11th Middlesex</i>
<i>Ellen Story</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>
<i>Tricia Farley-Bouvier</i>	<i>3rd Berkshire</i>
<i>Bradford R. Hill</i>	<i>4th Essex</i>
<i>James Arciero</i>	<i>2nd Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul Brodeur</i>	<i>32nd Middlesex</i>
<i>Antonio F. D. Cabral</i>	<i>13th Bristol</i>
<i>Thomas J. Calter</i>	<i>12th Plymouth</i>
<i>Gailanne M. Cariddi</i>	<i>1st Berkshire</i>
<i>Brendan P. Crighton</i>	<i>11th Essex</i>
<i>Claire D. Cronin</i>	<i>11th Plymouth</i>
<i>Michael S. Day</i>	<i>31st Middlesex</i>
<i>Marjorie C. Decker</i>	<i>25th Middlesex</i>
<i>Marcos A. Devers</i>	<i>16th Essex</i>
<i>Diana DiZoglio</i>	<i>14th Essex</i>
<i>Peter J. Durant</i>	<i>6th Worcester</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>
<i>Lori A. Ehrlich</i>	<i>8th Essex</i>

<i>James B. Eldridge</i>	<i>Middlesex and Worcester</i>
<i>Ryan C. Fattman</i>	<i>Worcester and Norfolk</i>
<i>William C. Galvin</i>	<i>6th Norfolk</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Denise C. Garlick</i>	<i>13th Norfolk</i>
<i>Colleen M. Garry</i>	<i>36th Middlesex</i>
<i>Susan Williams Gifford</i>	<i>2nd Plymouth</i>
<i>Kenneth I. Gordon</i>	<i>21st Middlesex</i>
<i>Jonathan Hecht</i>	<i>29th Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul R. Heroux</i>	<i>2nd Bristol</i>
<i>Kate Hogan</i>	<i>3rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Patricia D. Jehlen</i>	<i>Second Middlesex</i>
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>
<i>Louis L. Kafka</i>	<i>8th Norfolk</i>
<i>Mary S. Keefe</i>	<i>15th Worcester</i>
<i>Peter V. Kocot</i>	<i>1st Hampshire</i>
<i>Jason M. Lewis</i>	<i>Fifth Middlesex</i>
<i>Timothy R. Madden</i>	<i>Barnstable, Dukes and Nantucket</i>
<i>John J. Mahoney</i>	<i>13th Worcester</i>
<i>Paul McMurtry</i>	<i>11th Norfolk</i>
<i>David K. Muradian, Jr.</i>	<i>9th Worcester</i>
<i>Shaunna L. O'Connell</i>	<i>3rd Bristol</i>
<i>Kathleen O'Connor Ives</i>	<i>First Essex</i>
<i>Keiko M. Orrall</i>	<i>12th Bristol</i>
<i>Denise Provost</i>	<i>27th Middlesex</i>
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>
<i>David M. Rogers</i>	<i>24th Middlesex</i>
<i>Dennis A. Rosa</i>	<i>4th Worcester</i>
<i>Jeffrey N. Roy</i>	<i>10th Norfolk</i>
<i>Daniel J. Ryan</i>	<i>2nd Suffolk</i>
<i>Tom Sannicandro</i>	<i>7th Middlesex</i>
<i>John W. Scibak</i>	<i>2nd Hampshire</i>
<i>Frank I. Smizik</i>	<i>15th Norfolk</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>
<i>Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>
<i>Paul Tucker</i>	<i>7th Essex</i>
<i>Aaron Vega</i>	<i>5th Hampden</i>
<i>Chris Walsh</i>	<i>6th Middlesex</i>
<i>Barbara A. L'Italien</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>



**HOUSE . . . . . No. 422**

By Ms. Khan of Newton, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 422) of Kay Khan and others relative to establishing a foreign language education seal of biliteracy for students. Education.

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court  
(2015-2016)**

An Act to establish the state seal of 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. For purposes of this article, ‘foreign language’ means a language other than  
2 English, and includes American Sign Language.

3 SECTION 2. Chapter 69 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2012 Official Edition,  
4 is hereby amended by adding after Section 1O a new section:-

5 Section 1P. The board shall establish the State Seal of Biliteracy to recognize high school  
6 graduates who have attained a high level

7 of proficiency in speaking, reading, writing and listening in one or more languages in  
8 addition to English.

9 The purposes of the State Seal of Biliteracy are as follows: (1) To encourage students to  
10 study languages; (2) To certify attainment of biliteracy; (3) To provide employers with a method  
11 of identifying people with language and biliteracy skills; (4) To provide universities with a

12 method to recognize and give academic credit to applicants seeking admission; (5) To prepare  
13 pupils with 21st century skills; (6) To recognize and promote foreign language instruction and  
14 native and heritage language instruction in public schools; (7) To strengthen intergroup  
15 relationships, affirm the value in diversity, and honor the multiple cultures and languages of the  
16 Commonwealth.

17           The Secretary of Education shall be responsible for administering the State Seal of  
18 Biliteracy program including preparing and delivering to participating school districts an  
19 appropriate insignia to be affixed to the diploma or transcript of the student indicating that the  
20 student has been awarded a State Seal of Biliteracy. The Department of Elementary and  
21 Secondary Education, in consultation with the Massachusetts Foreign Language Association, and  
22 in alignment with national trends for existing state Seals in the nation, shall promulgate  
23 regulations governing criteria for the awarding of the State Seal of Biliteracy.

24           A school district that participates in the program under this section shall: maintain  
25 appropriate records in order to identify pupils who have earned a State Seal of Biliteracy and  
26 affix the appropriate insignia to the diploma or transcript of each pupil who earns a State Seal of  
27 Biliteracy. State Seals of Biliteracy shall also be available electronically.