

SENATE . . . . . No. 336

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

*Karen E. Spilka*

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 promote global trade and economic development through bi-literacy.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Karen E. Spilka</i>	<i>Second Middlesex and Norfolk</i>
<i>Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr.</i>	<i>12th Hampden</i>
<i>Lori A. Ehrlich</i>	<i>8th Essex</i>
<i>Joan B. Lovely</i>	<i>Second Essex</i>
<i>Michael O. Moore</i>	<i>Second Worcester</i>
<i>Thomas J. Calter</i>	<i>12th Plymouth</i>
<i>Carolyn C. Dykema</i>	<i>8th Middlesex</i>
<i>Sonia Chang-Diaz</i>	<i>Second Suffolk</i>
<i>Thomas M. McGee</i>	<i>Third Essex</i>
<i>Thomas M. Stanley</i>	<i>9th Middlesex</i>
<i>Sean Garballey</i>	<i>23rd Middlesex</i>
<i>Kathleen O'Connor Ives</i>	<i>First Essex</i>
<i>Barbara A. L'Italien</i>	<i>Second Essex and Middlesex</i>
<i>Susan Williams Gifford</i>	<i>2nd Plymouth</i>
<i>James Arciero</i>	<i>2nd Middlesex</i>
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>
<i>Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.</i>	<i>26th Middlesex</i>
<i>Sal N. DiDomenico</i>	<i>Middlesex and Suffolk</i>

*Thomas P. Kennedy*  
*Harriette L. Chandler*

*Second Plymouth and Bristol*  
*First Worcester*

*3/4/2015*  
*9/29/2015*

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By Ms. Spilka, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 336) of Karen E. Spilka, Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr., Lori A. Ehrlich, Joan B. Lovely and other members of the General Court for legislation to promote global trade and economic development through dual language and bi-literacy. Education.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE SENATE, NO. 270 OF 2013-2014.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

—————  
**In the One Hundred and Eighty-Ninth General Court  
(2015-2016)**  
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An Act to promote global trade and economic development through bi-literacy.

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

8           The purposes of the State Seal of Biliteracy are as follows: (1) To encourage students to  
9 study languages; (2) To certify attainment of biliteracy; (3) To provide employers with a method  
10 of identifying people with language and biliteracy skills; (4) To provide universities with a  
11 method to recognize and give academic credit to applicants seeking admission; (5) To prepare  
12 pupils with 21st century skills; (6) To recognize and promote foreign language instruction and  
13 native and heritage language instruction in public schools; (7) To strengthen intergroup  
14 relationships, affirm the value in diversity, and honor the multiple cultures and languages of the  
15 Commonwealth.

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

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