

HOUSE No. 2045

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Bradley H. Jones, Jr.

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 relative to the state seal of biliteracy.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Bradley H. Jones, Jr.</i>	<i>20th Middlesex</i>
<i>Bradford R. Hill</i>	<i>4th Essex</i>
<i>Susan Williams Gifford</i>	<i>2nd Plymouth</i>
<i>Paul K. Frost</i>	<i>7th Worcester</i>
<i>Mathew Muratore</i>	<i>1st Plymouth</i>
<i>Steven S. Howitt</i>	<i>4th Bristol</i>
<i>Kimberly N. Ferguson</i>	<i>1st Worcester</i>
<i>Hannah Kane</i>	<i>11th Worcester</i>
<i>Todd M. Smola</i>	<i>1st Hampden</i>
<i>F. Jay Barrows</i>	<i>1st Bristol</i>
<i>Nicholas A. Boldyga</i>	<i>3rd Hampden</i>
<i>David K. Muradian, Jr.</i>	<i>9th Worcester</i>
<i>David T. Vieira</i>	<i>3rd Barnstable</i>
<i>Sheila C. Harrington</i>	<i>1st Middlesex</i>

HOUSE No. 2045

By Mr. Jones of North Reading, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 2045) of Bradley H. Jones, Jr., and others relative to establishing a foreign language education seal of biliteracy for students. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

An Act relative to 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. Chapter 69 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2014 Official Edition,
2 is hereby amended by adding after section 1P a new section:

3 Section 1Q. The commissioner shall develop criteria and guidelines for a State Seal of
4 Biliteracy to be awarded by school districts to recognize high school graduates who have met
5 academic benchmarks, to be determined by the department, in one or more languages in addition
6 to English. The purposes of the State Seal of Biliteracy are as follows: (1) To encourage students
7 to study languages; (2) To certify attainment of biliteracy; (3) To provide employers with a
8 method of identifying people with language and biliteracy skills; (4) To provide universities with
9 a method to recognize and give academic credit to applicants seeking admission; (5) To prepare
10 pupils with 21st century skills; (6) To recognize and promote foreign language instruction and
11 native and heritage language instruction in public schools; (7) To strengthen intergroup
12 relationships, affirm the value in diversity, and honor the multiple cultures and languages of the

13 Commonwealth. The department shall be responsible for developing an appropriate insignia to
14 be affixed to the diploma or transcript of the student indicating that the student has been awarded
15 a State Seal of Biliteracy, and making said insignia available to school districts for the
16 preparation of diplomas. In developing the guidelines for the State Seal of Biliteracy, the
17 department shall consider the recommendations of the Massachusetts Foreign Language
18 Association. A school district that participates in the program under this section shall: maintain
19 appropriate records in order to identify pupils who have earned a State Seal of Biliteracy and
20 affix the appropriate insignia to the diploma or transcript of each pupil who earns a State Seal of
21 Biliteracy. State Seals of Biliteracy shall be available electronically. The department shall issue
22 regulations or guidelines as necessary to implement the provisions of this act.