

No. R-437. House concurrent resolution honoring Vermont high school students who have achieved fluency in world languages other than English, and welcoming the establishment of a Vermont Seal of Biliteracy.

(H.C.R.363)

Offered by: Representatives Kimbell of Woodstock, Beck of St. Johnsbury, Juskiewicz of Cambridge, and Toll of Danville

Offered by: Senators Baruth, Clarkson, and Kitchel

Whereas, the study of world languages should be encouraged because it contributes to a pupil's cognitive development, advances our place in our interconnected world, and represents a rigorous academic standard for every Vermont student, and

Whereas, maintaining proficiency in a child's native language is crucial for a student's academic success, and

Whereas, beyond maximizing a student's native language skills, developing fluency and literacy in a second or even a third language is a worthy academic challenge, and

Whereas, the benefits to employers whose staff is bilingual or multilingual are many, including an easier ability to expand into and transact business in international markets and work with staff members from abroad, and

Whereas, in collaboration with the Vermont Foreign Language Association, schools and school districts across the State are planning to establish, in the 2018–2019 school year, a Vermont Seal of Biliteracy to recognize students who demonstrate proficiency in English and at least one other language, and

Whereas, the criteria to determine eligibility for this recognition include: achieving a designated scoring threshold on either an Advanced Placement or Scholastic Aptitude II subject examination; earning a proficiency level score on an American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages Assessment of Performance Toward Proficiency in Languages or on another internationally recognized language proficiency test; achieving a specified cumulative grade point average in a sequence of foreign language and English courses that a local school board approves; and completion of a portfolio project consisting of a student presentation, an interview, and a writing sample, and

Whereas, the proposal envisions that those schools and school districts participating in the Vermont Seal of Biliteracy program would be entirely responsible for the implementation of the program in their respective jurisdictions, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Vermont high school students who have achieved fluency in one or more world languages, other than English, and welcomes the establishment of a Vermont Seal of Biliteracy program, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Foreign Language Association.