

AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT

118-10

OFFERED BY MS. BROWNLEY OF CALIFORNIA

In subtitle C of title XVIII of division A, add at the end the following:

1 **SEC. 1859. BILITERACY EDUCATION SEAL AND TEACHING.**

2 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

3 (1) ESEA DEFINITIONS.—The terms “English
4 learner”, “secondary school”, and “State” have the
5 meanings given those terms in section 8101 of the
6 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
7 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

8 (2) NATIVE AMERICAN LANGUAGES.—The term
9 “Native American languages” has the meaning given
10 the term in section 103 of the Native American Lan-
11 guages Act (25 U.S.C. 2902).

12 (3) SEAL OF BILITERACY PROGRAM.—The term
13 “Seal of Biliteracy program” means any program
14 described in subsection (b)(1) that is established or
15 improved, and carried out, with funds received under
16 this section.

17 (4) SECOND LANGUAGE.—The term “second
18 language” means any language other than English

1 (or a Native American language, pursuant to sub-
2 section (b)(1)(B)), including Braille, American Sign
3 Language, or a Classical language.

4 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
5 the Secretary of Education.

6 (b) GRANTS FOR STATE SEAL OF BILITERACY PRO-
7 GRAMS.—

8 (1) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—

9 (A) IN GENERAL.—From amounts made
10 available under paragraph (6), the Secretary
11 shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to
12 States to enable the States to establish or im-
13 prove, and carry out, Seal of Biliteracy pro-
14 grams to recognize student proficiency in speak-
15 ing, reading, and writing in both English and a
16 second language.

17 (B) INCLUSION OF NATIVE AMERICAN LAN-
18 GUAGES.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A),
19 each Seal of Biliteracy program shall contain
20 provisions allowing the use of Native American
21 languages, including allowing speakers of any
22 Native American language recognized as official
23 by any American government, including any
24 Tribal government, to use equivalent proficiency
25 in speaking, reading, and writing in the Native

1 American language in lieu of proficiency in
2 speaking, reading, and writing in English.

3 (C) DURATION.—A grant awarded under
4 this subsection shall be for a period of 2 years,
5 and may be renewed at the discretion of the
6 Secretary.

7 (D) RENEWAL.—At the end of a grant
8 term, a State that receives a grant under this
9 subsection may reapply for a grant under this
10 subsection.

11 (E) LIMITATIONS.—A State shall not re-
12 ceive more than 1 grant under this subsection
13 at any time.

14 (F) RETURN OF UNSPENT GRANT
15 FUNDS.—Each State that receives a grant
16 under this subsection shall return any unspent
17 grant funds not later than 6 months after the
18 date on which the term for the grant ends.

19 (2) GRANT APPLICATION.—A State that desires
20 a grant under this subsection shall submit an appli-
21 cation to the Secretary at such time, in such man-
22 ner, and containing such information and assurances
23 as the Secretary may require, including—

24 (A) a description of the criteria a student
25 must meet to demonstrate the proficiency in

1 speaking, reading, and writing in both lan-
2 guages necessary for the State Seal of
3 Biliteracy program;

4 (B) a detailed description of the State's
5 plan—

6 (i) to ensure that English learners
7 and former English learners are included
8 in the State Seal of Biliteracy program;

9 (ii) to ensure that—

10 (I) all languages, including Na-
11 tive American languages, can be test-
12 ed for the State Seal of Biliteracy
13 program; and

14 (II) Native American language
15 speakers and learners are included in
16 the State Seal of Biliteracy program,
17 including students at tribally con-
18 trolled schools and at schools funded
19 by the Bureau of Indian Education;
20 and

21 (iii) to reach students, including eligi-
22 ble students described in paragraph (3)(B)
23 and English learners, their parents, and
24 schools with information regarding the
25 State Seal of Biliteracy program;

1 (C) an assurance that a student who meets
2 the requirements under subparagraph (A) and
3 paragraph (3) receives—

4 (i) a permanent seal or other marker
5 on the student's secondary school diploma
6 or its equivalent; and

7 (ii) documentation of proficiency on
8 the student's official academic transcript;
9 and

10 (D) an assurance that a student is not
11 charged a fee for providing information under
12 paragraph (3)(A).

13 (3) STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN A SEAL OF
14 BILITERACY PROGRAM.—

15 (A) IN GENERAL.—To participate in a Seal
16 of Biliteracy program, a student shall provide
17 information to the State that serves the student
18 at such time, in such manner, and including
19 such information and assurances as the State
20 may require, including an assurance that the
21 student has met the criteria established by the
22 State under paragraph (2)(A).

23 (B) STUDENT ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPA-
24 TION.—A student who gained proficiency in a
25 second language outside of school may apply

1 under subparagraph (A) to participate in a Seal
2 of Biliteracy program.

3 (4) USE OF FUNDS.—Grant funds made avail-
4 able under this subsection shall be used for—

5 (A) the administrative costs of establishing
6 or improving, and carrying out, a Seal of
7 Biliteracy program that meets the requirements
8 of paragraph (2); and

9 (B) public outreach and education about
10 the Seal of Biliteracy program.

11 (5) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after
12 receiving a grant under this subsection, a State shall
13 issue a report to the Secretary describing the imple-
14 mentation of the Seal of Biliteracy program for
15 which the State received the grant.

16 (6) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
17 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
18 this subsection \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years
19 2024 through 2028.

