

SENATE, No. 327

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.

District 18 (Middlesex)

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Gill

SYNOPSIS

Establishes grant program for school districts and charter schools to develop dual language immersion programs.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** concerning dual language immersion programs in school
2 districts and charter schools and supplementing chapter 6 of Title
3 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

7
8 1. a. The Commissioner of Education, with the approval of the
9 State Board of Education, shall establish and administer a dual
10 language immersion program. The purpose of the program shall be
11 to award grants to school districts and charter schools to establish
12 dual language immersion programs in Chinese, Spanish, French, or
13 any other language approved by the commissioner.

14 b. Grant funds allocated under the program may be used for,
15 but not limited to, curriculum development, materials and supplies,
16 staff training, and program evaluation.

17
18 2. A school district or charter school may be eligible to receive a
19 grant if:

20 a. The school district or charter school uses an instructional
21 model that provides at least 50 percent of its instruction in a language
22 described in subsection a. of section 1 of this act; and

23 b. The dual language immersion program begins in kindergarten
24 or in grade one and meets any other requirements established by the
25 commissioner.

26
27 3. Within 90 days of the effective date of this act, the
28 commissioner shall forward to school districts and charter schools a
29 request for proposals for the establishment of a dual language
30 immersion program.

31 A school district or charter school which wants to apply to
32 participate in the grant program shall submit a proposal to the
33 commissioner in such form as prescribed by the commissioner. The
34 proposal shall include: a general description of the dual language
35 immersion program; the number of potential participants; the
36 program's potential impact on increasing biliteracy among students
37 in the school district or charter school; and any other information
38 that may be required by the commissioner.

39
40 4. The commissioner shall select grant recipients based upon
41 the quality of the proposed program and its potential to increase
42 student biliteracy. The commissioner shall select grant recipients in
43 the northern, central, and southern regions of the State and shall
44 allocate to each selected school district and charter school a grant in
45 such amount as the commissioner may deem necessary to support
46 the dual language immersion program.

1 5. There is established in the Department of Education a
2 nonlapsing revolving fund to be known as the Dual Language
3 Immersion Program Fund. The fund shall be used to provide grants
4 under the dual language immersion program, and shall be credited
5 with all moneys appropriated by the Legislature, any gifts, grants,
6 or donations made to the fund, and any other available revenue.
7 Interest received on moneys in the fund shall be credited to the
8 fund.

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10 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

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13 STATEMENT
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15 This bill directs the Commissioner of Education to establish a
16 dual language immersion program. Under the program, the
17 commissioner will provide grants to school districts and charter
18 schools to develop dual language immersion programs in Chinese,
19 Spanish, French, or any other language approved by the
20 commissioner.

21 Under the bill, a school district or charter school may be eligible
22 to receive funds if it uses an instructional model that provides at
23 least 50 percent of its instruction in Chinese, Spanish, French, or
24 any other language approved by the commissioner. The program
25 would have to begin in kindergarten or in grade one and would need
26 to meet any other requirements established by the commissioner.

27 The bill directs a school district or charter school which wants to
28 apply to participate in the grant program to submit a proposal to the
29 commissioner. The commissioner will select grant recipients in the
30 northern, central, and southern regions of the State and would
31 allocate to each selected recipient a grant in such amount as the
32 commissioner deems necessary to support the dual language
33 immersion program.

34 The bill establishes the Dual Language Immersion Program
35 Fund as a nonlapsing revolving fund in the Department of
36 Education to finance the grant program. The fund will be credited
37 with all moneys appropriated by the Legislature, any gifts, grants,
38 or donations made to the fund, and any other available revenue.