



## 2018 New York State YMCA

### Youth And Government

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Committee Assignment: Assembly Liberty 3

Bill #: AL-22

1 **Sponsors:** Taylor Fryer, Allison Hunt, José Perez-Marino, MacKenzie Randolph

2

#### 3 **An Act To**

4 To amend § 200.4 of the General School Requirement Act in order to have Spanish  
5 language education to begin at the grade of kindergarten in all New York State  
6 school districts.

7

8 *The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:*

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#### 10 **Purpose**

11 The purpose of this bill is to commence the education of the Spanish language for  
12 children entering kindergarten and continuing through seventh grade.

#### 13 **Summary of Provisions**

##### 14 **Section 1**

15 Public school districts ~~must~~ ~~may~~ commence Spanish language ~~other than English~~  
16 instruction at kindergarten and carry teaching of the language through the seventh  
17 grade, at which districts must allow students to choose between other district  
18 offered languages or advanced Spanish any grade level prior to grade eight but  
19 ~~shall do so no later than the beginning of grade eight~~ so that students are provided  
20 the required two units of study by the end of grade nine.

##### 21 **Justification**

22 Understanding that individuals undergo most major language development early in  
23 their life, it is prudent to introduce language as soon as possible in their formal  
24 education. It is largely agreed upon in the scientific community that fully  
25 comprehensive bilingualism at a young age fuels brain development and, as shown  
26 by nations who teach foreign language at younger age, results in children having a  
27 higher understanding in all educational fields.

28 When considering the relevance of Spanish to New York as the most spoken  
29 language other than English within the state, it becomes abundantly clear that if  
30 any language were to be made mandatory from a young age other than English, it  
31 would be Spanish. Fluency in Spanish will promote greater cultural understanding  
32 and diversity in New York

##### 33 **Fiscal Implications**

34 New York State school districts will be required to allot money toward the payment  
35 of teachers who would be hired under the provisions of this bill. Teachers must be  
36 able to teach the students at the elementary level. This change would lead to  
37 economic benefits for the state as we believe that statewide fluency in Spanish  
38 would help the economic sector of New York grow, in particular, the international  
39 businesses within New York City. This will not change the requirements of Spanish  
40 credits to graduate.

##### 41 **Effective Date**

42 One school year after the passage of this bill.