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Committee Assignment: Assembly Liberty 2

Bill #:AL-16

1 **Sponsors:** Owen Perala, Tyler Michaels

2
3 **An Act To** Amend the New York State Education Law Section 3204 Subsection 3
4 under Article 65 to mandate a second language in all schools.

5
6 *The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:*

7
8 **Purpose** To amend the New York State Education Law Section 3204, Subsection 3
9 to mandate a second language in the first eight years of full-time public day
10 schools.

11
12 **Summary of Provisions**

13 **Section 1**

14 **Foreign language:** any language other than English.

15
16 **Section 2**

17 Section 3204

18 3. Courses of study. a. (1) The course of study for the first eight years of full time
19 public day schools shall provide for instruction in at least the ~~twelve~~ thirteen
20 common school branches of arithmetic, reading, spelling, writing, the English
21 language, geography, United States history, civics, hygiene, physical training, the
22 history of New York state, science, and a foreign language of either Mandarin
23 Chinese, Spanish, or French.

24
25 **Justification**

26 43% of the world is bilingual, and 13% is trilingual, United States citizens know an
27 average of 0.7 languages. 20% of the United States students speak a foreign
28 language in grades K-12, but in Europe, 92% of students do. In addition to this,
29 only 58% of middle schools and 25% of elementary schools offered a foreign
30 language in 2008, according to a 2017 report by the Commission on Language
31 Learning. These statistics are lower than the 75% and 31%, respectively, that they
32 were in 1997. Learning foreign languages has already been proven to be important,
33 as dual language learning gives students a wider worldview, allowing for more
34 collaborative learning. In addition to this, bilingual students can focus more intently
35 on the topics at hand and ignore distractions. They also demonstrate a higher
36 ability to change based on their environment and circumstances.

37
38 **Fiscal Implications**

39 Fiscal implications will vary from school district to school district, as schools will
40 have different needs based on the number of students in their district, the
41 existence or absence of an existing program, and availability of any existing foreign
42 language teachers. A first-year teacher's salary is \$60,477, while the average



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43 teacher salary is \$79,588. It is presumed that most school districts will not need to
44 pay another full-time teacher, however, they may need to pay an existing teacher
45 for more working time. The average hourly salary for a teacher in New York State is
46 \$21.32.

47

48 **Environmental Implications**

49 There are no known environmental implications for this bill.

50

51 **Effective Date**

52 The law will go into effect three calendar years after this bill passes.