



General Assembly

February Session, 2024

***Raised Bill No. 5451***

LCO No. 2671



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION  
AND ELECTIONS

Introduced by:  
(GAE)

***AN ACT CONCERNING IMMIGRANT AND MULTILINGUAL LEARNER  
ACCESS TO STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General  
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) There is established an  
2 Advocate for Immigrant and Multilingual Learner Families within the  
3 Department of Education. The Commissioner of Education shall  
4 appoint an individual who is an immigrant or multilingual learner of  
5 not less than sixteen years of age, or the parent, guardian or familial  
6 caretaker of an immigrant or multilingual learner, to serve as the  
7 advocate. The State Board of Education shall reserve not less than ten  
8 minutes within the first hour of any of its meetings for the advocate to  
9 report on issues related to immigrants and multilingual learners in the  
10 state. The advocate shall not be compensated for his or her services but  
11 shall be reimbursed for any necessary expenses incurred in the  
12 performance of the advocate's duties.

13 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2024*) (a) Except as provided in  
14 subsection (b) of this section, the local or regional board of education for

15 a school district with a total population containing two per cent or more  
16 immigrants or multilingual learners shall establish the position of  
17 Advocate for Immigrant and Multilingual Learner Families. The  
18 superintendent of such local or regional board of education shall  
19 appoint an individual who is an immigrant or multilingual learner of  
20 not less than sixteen years of age, or the parent, guardian or familial  
21 caretaker of an immigrant or multilingual learner, to serve as the  
22 advocate, subject to the approval of a majority vote of the board of  
23 education. The board of education shall reserve not less than ten  
24 minutes within the first hour of any of its meetings for the advocate to  
25 report on issues related to immigrants and multilingual learners in the  
26 school district. The advocate shall not be compensated for his or her  
27 services but shall be reimbursed for any necessary expenses incurred in  
28 the performance of the advocate's duties.

29 (b) In lieu of appointing an advocate as described in subsection (a) of  
30 this section, a local or regional board of education that is subject to the  
31 requirements of subsection (a) of this section may establish a nonvoting  
32 seat on such board designated for an individual with the same  
33 qualifications as required under said subsection for the advocate.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2024</i>	New section

***Statement of Purpose:***

To establish the position of Advocate for Immigrant and Multilingual Learner Families to participate in meetings of the State Board of Education and certain local and regional boards of education meetings.

***[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]***