
HOUSE BILL 1412

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Representatives Bergquist, Zeiger, Maxwell, Reykdal, Kagi, Riccelli, Santos, Fitzgibbon, Tarleton, Lytton, Pollet, Farrell, Freeman, Ryu, Stonier, Stanford, Hunt, Van De Wege, Kochmar, Buys, Magendanz, Hayes, O'Ban, Fey, Morrell, and Jinkins

Read first time 01/25/13. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to community service as a high school graduation
2 requirement; amending RCW 28A.230.090; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that volunteering
5 connects students to their communities and provides an opportunity for
6 students to practice and apply their academic and social skills in
7 preparation for entering the workforce. Community service can better
8 prepare and inspire students to continue their education beyond high
9 school. Community service is also associated with increased civic
10 awareness and participation by students. Therefore, the legislature
11 intends to incorporate an expectation for each student to participate
12 in community service as one aspect of meeting high school graduation
13 requirements.

14 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.230.090 and 2011 c 203 s 2 are each amended to
15 read as follows:

16 (1) The state board of education shall establish high school
17 graduation requirements or equivalencies for students, except as
18 provided in RCW 28A.230.122 and except those equivalencies established

1 by local high schools or school districts under RCW 28A.230.097. The
2 purpose of a high school diploma is to declare that a student is ready
3 for success in postsecondary education, gainful employment, and
4 citizenship, and is equipped with the skills to be a lifelong learner.

5 (a) Any course in Washington state history and government used to
6 fulfill high school graduation requirements shall consider including
7 information on the culture, history, and government of the American
8 Indian peoples who were the first inhabitants of the state.

9 (b) The certificate of academic achievement requirements under RCW
10 28A.655.061 or the certificate of individual achievement requirements
11 under RCW 28A.155.045 are required for graduation from a public high
12 school but are not the only requirements for graduation.

13 (c) Any decision on whether a student has met the state board's
14 high school graduation requirements for a high school and beyond plan
15 shall remain at the local level.

16 (d) Beginning with the graduating class of 2017, each student must
17 complete community service, to be explained and documented using the
18 student's culminating project. School districts may establish
19 additional parameters and requirements for the community service.

20 (2)(a) In recognition of the statutory authority of the state board
21 of education to establish and enforce minimum high school graduation
22 requirements, the state board shall periodically reevaluate the
23 graduation requirements and shall report such findings to the
24 legislature in a timely manner as determined by the state board.

25 (b) The state board shall reevaluate the graduation requirements
26 for students enrolled in vocationally intensive and rigorous career and
27 technical education programs, particularly those programs that lead to
28 a certificate or credential that is state or nationally recognized.
29 The purpose of the evaluation is to ensure that students enrolled in
30 these programs have sufficient opportunity to earn a certificate of
31 academic achievement, complete the program and earn the program's
32 certificate or credential, and complete other state and local
33 graduation requirements.

34 (c) The state board shall forward any proposed changes to the high
35 school graduation requirements to the education committees of the
36 legislature for review and to the quality education council established
37 under RCW 28A.290.010. The legislature shall have the opportunity to
38 act during a regular legislative session before the changes are adopted

1 through administrative rule by the state board. Changes that have a
2 fiscal impact on school districts, as identified by a fiscal analysis
3 prepared by the office of the superintendent of public instruction,
4 shall take effect only if formally authorized and funded by the
5 legislature through the omnibus appropriations act or other enacted
6 legislation.

7 (3) Pursuant to any requirement for instruction in languages other
8 than English established by the state board of education or a local
9 school district, or both, for purposes of high school graduation,
10 students who receive instruction in American sign language or one or
11 more American Indian languages shall be considered to have satisfied
12 the state or local school district graduation requirement for
13 instruction in one or more languages other than English.

14 (4) If requested by the student and his or her family, a student
15 who has completed high school courses before attending high school
16 shall be given high school credit which shall be applied to fulfilling
17 high school graduation requirements if:

18 (a) The course was taken with high school students, if the academic
19 level of the course exceeds the requirements for seventh and eighth
20 grade classes, and the student has successfully passed by completing
21 the same course requirements and examinations as the high school
22 students enrolled in the class; or

23 (b) The academic level of the course exceeds the requirements for
24 seventh and eighth grade classes and the course would qualify for high
25 school credit, because the course is similar or equivalent to a course
26 offered at a high school in the district as determined by the school
27 district board of directors.

28 (5) Students who have taken and successfully completed high school
29 courses under the circumstances in subsection (4) of this section shall
30 not be required to take an additional competency examination or perform
31 any other additional assignment to receive credit.

32 (6) At the college or university level, five quarter or three
33 semester hours equals one high school credit.

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