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SENATE BILL 6092

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State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Senators Litzow, Mullet, Dammeier, Frockt, Hill, Hobbs, Fain, Tom, and Rolfes

Read first time 01/15/14. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to credit requirements for high school graduation;  
2 amending RCW 28A.150.220 and 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 recognizes that preparing  
5 students to be successful in postsecondary education, gainful  
6 employment, and citizenship requires increased rigor and achievement,  
7 including attaining a meaningful high school diploma with the  
8 opportunity to earn twenty-four credits. The legislature finds that  
9 investments were provided for the 2014-15 school year to enable the  
10 instruction that provides students the opportunity to complete twenty-  
11 four credits. The legislature intends that beginning with the  
12 graduating class of 2018 and thereafter, students will complete twenty-  
13 four credits to obtain a meaningful high school diploma that will  
14 contribute to student success in postsecondary education, gainful  
15 employment, and citizenship.

16 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.150.220 and 2013 2nd sp.s. c 9 s 2 are each  
17 amended to read as follows:

18 (1) In order for students to have the opportunity to develop the

1 basic education knowledge and skills under RCW 28A.150.210, school  
2 districts must provide instruction of sufficient quantity and quality  
3 and give students the opportunity to complete graduation requirements  
4 that are intended to prepare them for postsecondary education, gainful  
5 employment, and citizenship. The program established under this  
6 section shall be the minimum instructional program of basic education  
7 offered by school districts.

8 (2) Each school district shall make available to students the  
9 following minimum instructional offering each school year:

10 (a) For students enrolled in grades one through twelve, at least a  
11 district-wide annual average of one thousand hours, which shall be  
12 increased to at least one thousand eighty instructional hours for  
13 students enrolled in each of grades seven through twelve and at least  
14 one thousand instructional hours for students in each of grades one  
15 through six according to an implementation schedule adopted by the  
16 legislature, but not before the 2014-15 school year; and

17 (b) For students enrolled in kindergarten, at least four hundred  
18 fifty instructional hours, which shall be increased to at least one  
19 thousand instructional hours according to the implementation schedule  
20 under RCW 28A.150.315.

21 (3) The instructional program of basic education provided by each  
22 school district shall include:

23 (a) Instruction in the essential academic learning requirements  
24 under RCW 28A.655.070;

25 (b) Beginning with the graduating class of 2018, instruction that  
26 provides students the opportunity to complete twenty-four credits for  
27 high school graduation(~~(, subject to a phased in implementation of the~~  
28 ~~twenty four credits as established by the legislature)~~). Course  
29 distribution requirements may be established by the state board of  
30 education under RCW 28A.230.090;

31 (c) If the essential academic learning requirements include a  
32 requirement of languages other than English, the requirement may be met  
33 by students receiving instruction in one or more American Indian  
34 languages;

35 (d) Supplemental instruction and services for underachieving  
36 students through the learning assistance program under RCW 28A.165.005  
37 through 28A.165.065;

1 (e) Supplemental instruction and services for eligible and enrolled  
2 students and exited students whose primary language is other than  
3 English through the transitional bilingual instruction program under  
4 RCW 28A.180.010 through 28A.180.080;

5 (f) The opportunity for an appropriate education at public expense  
6 as defined by RCW 28A.155.020 for all eligible students with  
7 disabilities as defined in RCW 28A.155.020; and

8 (g) Programs for highly capable students under RCW 28A.185.010  
9 through 28A.185.030.

10 (4) Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to require  
11 individual students to attend school for any particular number of hours  
12 per day or to take any particular courses.

13 (5) Each school district's kindergarten through twelfth grade basic  
14 educational program shall be accessible to all students who are five  
15 years of age, as provided by RCW 28A.225.160, and less than twenty-one  
16 years of age and shall consist of a minimum of one hundred eighty  
17 school days per school year in such grades as are conducted by a school  
18 district, and one hundred eighty half-days of instruction, or  
19 equivalent, in kindergarten, to be increased to a minimum of one  
20 hundred eighty school days per school year according to the  
21 implementation schedule under RCW 28A.150.315. However, schools  
22 administering the Washington kindergarten inventory of developing  
23 skills may use up to three school days at the beginning of the school  
24 year to meet with parents and families as required in the parent  
25 involvement component of the inventory. In addition, effective May 1,  
26 1979, a school district may schedule the last five school days of the  
27 one hundred and eighty day school year for noninstructional purposes in  
28 the case of students who are graduating from high school, including,  
29 but not limited to, the observance of graduation and early release from  
30 school upon the request of a student, and all such students may be  
31 claimed as a full-time equivalent student to the extent they could  
32 otherwise have been so claimed for the purposes of RCW 28A.150.250 and  
33 28A.150.260.

34 (6) Nothing in this section precludes a school district from  
35 enriching the instructional program of basic education, such as  
36 offering additional instruction or providing additional services,  
37 programs, or activities that the school district determines to be  
38 appropriate for the education of the school district's students.

1 (7) The state board of education shall adopt rules to implement and  
2 ensure compliance with the program requirements imposed by this  
3 section, RCW 28A.150.250 and 28A.150.260, and such related supplemental  
4 program approval requirements as the state board may establish.

5 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.230.090 and 2011 c 203 s 2 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (1) The state board of education shall establish high school  
8 graduation requirements or equivalencies for students, which beginning  
9 with the graduating class of 2018 shall include the opportunity to  
10 complete twenty-four credits for high school graduation, except as  
11 provided in RCW 28A.230.122 and except those equivalencies established  
12 by local high schools or school districts under RCW 28A.230.097. The  
13 purpose of a high school diploma is to declare that a student is ready  
14 for success in postsecondary education, gainful employment, and  
15 citizenship, and is equipped with the skills to be a lifelong learner.

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

20 (b) The certificate of academic achievement requirements under RCW  
21 28A.655.061 or the certificate of individual achievement requirements  
22 under RCW 28A.155.045 are required for graduation from a public high  
23 school but are not the only requirements for graduation.

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

27 (2)(a) In recognition of the statutory authority of the state board  
28 of education to establish and enforce minimum high school graduation  
29 requirements, the state board shall periodically reevaluate the  
30 graduation requirements and shall report such findings to the  
31 legislature in a timely manner as determined by the state board.

32 (b) The state board shall reevaluate the graduation requirements  
33 for students enrolled in vocationally intensive and rigorous career and  
34 technical education programs, particularly those programs that lead to  
35 a certificate or credential that is state or nationally recognized.  
36 The purpose of the evaluation is to ensure that students enrolled in  
37 these programs have sufficient opportunity to earn a certificate of

1 academic achievement, complete the program and earn the program's  
2 certificate or credential, and complete other state and local  
3 graduation requirements.

4 (c) The state board shall forward any proposed changes to the high  
5 school graduation requirements to the education committees of the  
6 legislature for review and to the quality education council established  
7 under RCW 28A.290.010. The legislature shall have the opportunity to  
8 act during a regular legislative session before the changes are adopted  
9 through administrative rule by the state board. Changes that have a  
10 fiscal impact on school districts, as identified by a fiscal analysis  
11 prepared by the office of the superintendent of public instruction,  
12 shall take effect only if formally authorized and funded by the  
13 legislature through the omnibus appropriations act or other enacted  
14 legislation.

15 (3) Pursuant to any requirement for instruction in languages other  
16 than English established by the state board of education or a local  
17 school district, or both, for purposes of high school graduation,  
18 students who receive instruction in American sign language or one or  
19 more American Indian languages shall be considered to have satisfied  
20 the state or local school district graduation requirement for  
21 instruction in one or more languages other than English.

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

26 (a) The course was taken with high school students, if the academic  
27 level of the course exceeds the requirements for seventh and eighth  
28 grade classes, and the student has successfully passed by completing  
29 the same course requirements and examinations as the high school  
30 students enrolled in the class; or

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

36 (5) Students who have taken and successfully completed high school  
37 courses under the circumstances in subsection (4) of this section shall

1 not be required to take an additional competency examination or perform  
2 any other additional assignment to receive credit.

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

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