
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2743

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By House Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Reykdal, McBride, Rossetti, Santos, and Pollet)

READ FIRST TIME 02/01/16.

1 AN ACT Relating to the issuance of a Washington state high school
2 diploma; amending RCW 28B.50.536; creating new sections; and
3 providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that a high
6 school diploma demonstrates the accomplishment of a long-term
7 academic goal, and a command of knowledge and proficiencies that are
8 an invaluable part of a meaningful and financially productive life.

9 (2) The legislature finds that the GED test system, the system
10 used for earning a Washington high school equivalency certificate, is
11 aligned with career and college readiness expectations and includes
12 requirements to demonstrate knowledge and skills equivalent to high
13 school graduates in four categories: Reasoning through language arts;
14 mathematics; science; and social studies.

15 (3) The legislature finds also that there is an unnecessary and
16 inappropriate stigma associated with successfully completing a GED
17 test and the earning of a high school equivalency certificate that
18 may limit economic and academic opportunities for persons. The
19 legislature therefore intends to establish a general Washington state
20 high school diploma that is to be issued to persons who have attained

1 standard scores on a high school equivalency test that are at or
2 above a prescribed proficiency level.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.50.536 and 2013 c 39 s 9 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 (1) Subject to rules adopted by the state board of education
6 under RCW 28A.305.190, the state board for community and technical
7 colleges shall adopt rules governing the eligibility of persons
8 sixteen years of age and older to take a test to earn a high school
9 equivalency certificate, rules governing the administration of the
10 test, and rules governing the issuance of a high school equivalency
11 certificate to persons who successfully complete the test.

12 (2) A high school equivalency certificate is a certificate issued
13 jointly by the college board and the office of the superintendent of
14 public instruction that indicates that the holder has attained
15 standard scores at or above the minimum proficiency level prescribed
16 by the college board on a high school equivalency test. The college
17 board must identify and accept a high school equivalency test that is
18 at least as rigorous as the general educational development test. The
19 high school equivalency test identified by the college board must
20 cover reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies
21 subject areas.

22 (3) High school equivalency certificates issued under this
23 section shall be issued (~~in such form and substance as agreed upon~~)
24 by the state board for community and technical colleges and
25 superintendent of public instruction as follows: If the recipient of
26 the certificate is at least eighteen years of age or has completed
27 eighteen or more credits in a twenty-four credit graduation system
28 adopted in accordance with a resolution of the state board of
29 education, the recipient's certificate must be issued as a Washington
30 state high school diploma. For all other recipients, the certificate
31 must be issued as a high school equivalency certificate. The
32 Washington state high school diploma confers the same high school
33 graduate status to the holder as a diploma issued to a student who
34 satisfies high school graduation requirements in accordance with RCW
35 28A.230.090.

36 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The superintendent of public
37 instruction, in collaboration with the state board for community and
38 technical colleges, must develop recommendations for modifying state

1 and school district graduation rate data collection and tabulation
2 requirements and processes to reflect Washington state high school
3 diplomas issued under RCW 28B.50.536. Recommendations required by
4 this section must, in accordance with RCW 43.01.036, be submitted to
5 the appropriate committees of the house of representatives and the
6 senate by December 31, 2016.

7 (2) This section expires August 1, 2017.

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