
HOUSE BILL 2973

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Representatives Priest, Ormsby, Kenney, Kagi, Hasegawa, P. Sullivan, Moeller, Santos and Springer

Read first time 01/17/2006. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a career and technical high school
2 graduation option for students meeting state standards in fundamental
3 academic content areas; amending RCW 28A.230.090, 28A.230.100, and
4 28A.225.290; adding a new section to chapter 28C.04 RCW; and creating
5 a new section.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that Washington's
8 performance-based education system should seek not only to provide
9 fundamental academic knowledge and skills for all students, but also
10 provide the opportunity for students to acquire knowledge and skills
11 likely to contribute to their own economic well-being and that of their
12 families and communities.

13 (2) The legislature recognizes that although career and technical
14 options are available for students, other credit and course-oriented
15 graduation requirements beyond those necessary to assure students meet
16 fundamental academic standards may be prohibiting students from
17 pursuing a high quality career and technical education pathway.

18 (3) Therefore the legislature intends to create a rigorous, high
19 quality career and technical high school graduation option that assures

1 students meet state standards in fundamental academic content areas,
2 but also reflects nationally recognized standards for the knowledge and
3 skills needed to pursue employment and careers in technical fields.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28C.04 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 The superintendent of public instruction shall develop a list of
7 approved career and technical education programs that qualify for the
8 high school graduation option under RCW 28A.230.090. Programs on the
9 list must meet the following minimum criteria:

10 (1) Lead to a certificate or credential that is nationally
11 recognized by trades, industries, or other professional associations as
12 necessary for employment or advancement in that field;

13 (2) Require a vocationally intensive and rigorous course of study
14 with the equivalent of one thousand eighty hours of study; and

15 (3) Have a high potential for providing the program completer with
16 gainful employment or entry into a postsecondary work force training
17 program.

18 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.230.090 and 2005 c 205 s 3 are each amended to
19 read as follows:

20 (1) The state board of education shall establish high school
21 graduation requirements or equivalencies for students.

22 (a) The board shall establish a career and technical high school
23 graduation option that:

24 (i) Requires completion of coursework in the fundamental academic
25 content areas necessary to prepare students to obtain the certificate
26 of academic achievement under RCW 28A.655.061;

27 (ii) Requires completion of a career and technical education
28 program approved by the superintendent of public instruction under
29 section 2 of this act and attainment of the nationally recognized
30 certificate or credential associated with the program; and

31 (iii) May contain course requirements, but may permit students to
32 not be required to meet the state standards in content areas not
33 assessed by the Washington assessment of student learning so that
34 students may focus on completing the requirements under (a)(i) and (ii)
35 of this subsection.

1 (b) Any course in Washington state history and government used to
2 fulfill high school graduation requirements shall consider including
3 information on the culture, history, and government of the American
4 Indian peoples who were the first inhabitants of the state.

5 ~~((b))~~ (c) The certificate of academic achievement requirements
6 under RCW 28A.655.061 or the certificate of individual achievement
7 requirements under RCW 28A.155.045 are required for graduation from a
8 public high school but are not the only requirements for graduation.

9 ~~((e))~~ (d) Any decision on whether a student has met the state
10 board's high school graduation requirements for a high school and
11 beyond plan shall remain at the local level.

12 (2) In recognition of the statutory authority of the state board of
13 education to establish and enforce minimum high school graduation
14 requirements, the state board shall periodically reevaluate the
15 graduation requirements and shall report such findings to the
16 legislature in a timely manner as determined by the state board.

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

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

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

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

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

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

7 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28A.230.100 and 1991 c 116 s 8 are each amended to
8 read as follows:

9 The state board of education shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter
10 34.05 RCW, to implement the course requirements set forth in RCW
11 28A.230.090, including the career and technical high school graduation
12 option. The rules shall include, as the state board deems necessary,
13 granting equivalencies for and temporary exemptions from the course
14 requirements in RCW 28A.230.090 and special alterations of the course
15 requirements in RCW 28A.230.090. In developing such rules the state
16 board shall recognize the relevance of vocational and applied courses
17 and allow such courses to fulfill in whole or in part the courses
18 required for graduation in RCW 28A.230.090. The rules may include
19 provisions for competency testing in lieu of such courses required for
20 graduation in RCW 28A.230.090 or demonstration of specific skill
21 proficiency or understanding of concepts through work or experience.

22 **Sec. 5.** RCW 28A.225.290 and 1990 1st ex.s. c 9 s 207 are each
23 amended to read as follows:

24 (1) The superintendent of public instruction shall prepare and
25 annually distribute an information booklet outlining parents' and
26 guardians' enrollment options for their children.

27 (2) Before the 1991-92 school year, the booklet shall be
28 distributed to all school districts by the office of the superintendent
29 of public instruction. School districts shall have a copy of the
30 information booklet available for public inspection at each school in
31 the district, at the district office, and in public libraries.

32 (3) The booklet shall include:

33 (a) Information about enrollment options and program opportunities,
34 including but not limited to programs in RCW 28A.225.220, 28A.185.040,
35 28A.225.200 through 28A.225.215, 28A.225.230 through 28A.225.250,

1 ((~~28A.175.090,~~) 28A.340.010 through 28A.340.070 (small high school
2 cooperative projects), and 28A.335.160(~~(-)~~);

3 (b) Information about the running start (~~(community college or~~
4 ~~vocational technical institute choice)~~) high school and college dual
5 enrollment program under RCW 28A.600.300 through (~~28A.600.395)~~
6 28A.600.400; (~~and~~)

7 (c) Information about the seventh and eighth grade choice program
8 under RCW 28A.230.090; and

9 (d) Information about high school graduation requirements,
10 including the career and technical high school graduation option under
11 RCW 28A.230.090.

--- END ---