
HOUSE BILL 3054

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2006 Regular Session

By Representatives Priest, Chase and Anderson

Read first time 01/18/2006. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to redefining the high school diploma; and creating
2 new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** In 1993, Washington state embarked on an
5 ambitious path to establish statewide standards for the knowledge,
6 skills, and abilities that all students should know and be able to do
7 before graduating from high school. The intent of Washington's
8 education reform was to focus on the competencies desired of students
9 at graduation. Since that time, a great deal of effort has gone into
10 developing and implementing the state's essential academic learning
11 requirements, grade level expectations, and statewide assessment
12 system. However, the legislature finds that high school graduation
13 requirements remain focused on accumulation of credits, taking a set of
14 required courses, and achieving a particular score on a single
15 assessment of learning. Furthermore, there is not a consensus within
16 the state as to the overall purpose of the high school diploma and what
17 accomplishment it is intended to signify. Therefore, the legislature
18 intends to direct a critical reevaluation and redefinition of the high
19 school diploma in Washington.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The state board of education shall
2 develop and propose a revised definition of the purpose and
3 expectations for high school diplomas issued by public schools in
4 Washington state. The revised definition shall address whether
5 attainment of a high school diploma is intended to signify that a
6 student is ready for success in college, ready for successful and
7 gainful employment in the workplace, or some combination of these and
8 other objectives. The revised definition shall focus on the knowledge,
9 skills, and abilities that students are expected to demonstrate to
10 receive a high school diploma, as well as the various methods to be
11 used to measure student performance, rather than focusing on courses,
12 credits, seat time, and test scores.

13 (2) In developing the revised definition of the high school
14 diploma, the state board of education shall consult with educators,
15 parents, institutions of higher education, employers, and community
16 leaders. The board shall also work with the state board for community
17 and technical colleges, the higher education coordinating board, and
18 the work force training and education coordinating board.

19 (3) The state board of education shall submit the proposed revised
20 definition of the high school diploma, along with any necessary
21 revisions to state statutes and rules, to the education committees of
22 the legislature by December 1, 2007.

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