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SENATE BILL 5668

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State of Washington                      59th Legislature                      2005 Regular Session

By Senators Roach, Swecker, Carrell and Mulliken

Read first time 02/01/2005. Referred to Committee on Early Learning,  
K-12 & Higher Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to voting education in high schools; and amending  
2 RCW 28A.230.090.

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

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.230.090 and 2004 c 19 s 103 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

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

8            (a) Any course in Washington state history and government used to  
9 fulfill high school graduation requirements is encouraged to include  
10 information on the culture, history, and government of the American  
11 Indian peoples who were the first inhabitants of the state.

12            (b) Any course in United States history or government used to  
13 fulfill high school graduation requirements must include information on  
14 voting in and the process of both the primary and general elections,  
15 the absentee and provisional ballot processes, and a discussion of the  
16 state voters' pamphlet. The certificate of academic achievement  
17 requirements under RCW 28A.655.061 or the certificate of individual  
18 achievement requirements under RCW 28A.155.045 are required for

1 graduation from a public high school but are not the only requirements  
2 for graduation.

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

6 (2) In recognition of the statutory authority of the state board of  
7 education to establish and enforce minimum high school graduation  
8 requirements, the state board shall periodically reevaluate the  
9 graduation requirements and shall report such findings to the  
10 legislature in a timely manner as determined by the state board.

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

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

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

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

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

36 (6) At the college or university level, five quarter or three

1 semester hours equals one high school credit.

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