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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6437**

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**State of Washington**

**59th Legislature**

**2006 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education (originally sponsored by Senators McAuliffe, Rockefeller, Schmidt, Eide, Keiser, Schoesler, Fraser, Kohl-Welles, Weinstein, Pridemore, Rasmussen and Shin)

READ FIRST TIME 01/26/06.

1       AN ACT Relating to course equivalencies for career and technical  
2 coursework for high school students; amending RCW 28A.230.090 and  
3 28A.230.100; and adding a new section to chapter 28A.230 RCW.

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

5       NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.230  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7       (1) Each high school or school district board of directors shall  
8 adopt course equivalencies for all career and technical high school  
9 courses offered to students at the high school. A career and technical  
10 course equivalency may be for whole or partial credit. Each school  
11 district board of directors shall develop a course equivalency approval  
12 procedure.

13       (2) Career and technical courses determined to be equivalent to  
14 academic core courses, in full or in part, by the high school or school  
15 district shall be accepted as meeting core requirements, including  
16 graduation requirements, if the courses are transcribed on the  
17 student's transcript using the equivalent academic high school  
18 department designation and title. Full or partial credit shall be  
19 recorded as appropriate.

1       **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.230.090 and 2005 c 205 s 3 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       (1) The state board of education shall establish high school  
4 graduation requirements or equivalencies for students, except those  
5 equivalencies as established by local high schools or school districts  
6 under section 1 of this act.

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

11       (b) The certificate of academic achievement requirements under RCW  
12 28A.655.061 or the certificate of individual achievement requirements  
13 under RCW 28A.155.045 are required for graduation from a public high  
14 school but are not the only requirements for graduation.

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

18       (2) In recognition of the statutory authority of the state board of  
19 education to establish and enforce minimum high school graduation  
20 requirements, the state board shall periodically reevaluate the  
21 graduation requirements and shall report such findings to the  
22 legislature in a timely manner as determined by the state board.

23       (3) Pursuant to any requirement for instruction in languages other  
24 than English established by the state board of education or a local  
25 school district, or both, for purposes of high school graduation,  
26 students who receive instruction in American sign language or one or  
27 more American Indian languages shall be considered to have satisfied  
28 the state or local school district graduation requirement for  
29 instruction in one or more languages other than English.

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

34       (a) The course was taken with high school students, if the academic  
35 level of the course exceeds the requirements for seventh and eighth  
36 grade classes, and the student has successfully passed by completing  
37 the same course requirements and examinations as the high school  
38 students enrolled in the class; or

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

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

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

12 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.230.100 and 1991 c 116 s 8 are each amended to  
13 read as follows:

14 The state board of education shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter  
15 34.05 RCW, to implement the course requirements set forth in RCW  
16 28A.230.090. The rules shall include, as the state board deems  
17 necessary, granting equivalencies for and temporary exemptions from the  
18 course requirements in RCW 28A.230.090 and special alterations of the  
19 course requirements in RCW 28A.230.090. In developing such rules the  
20 state board shall recognize the relevance of vocational and applied  
21 courses and allow such courses to fulfill in whole or in part the  
22 courses required for graduation in RCW 28A.230.090, as determined by  
23 the high school or school district in accordance with section 1 of this  
24 act. The rules may include provisions for competency testing in lieu  
25 of such courses required for graduation in RCW 28A.230.090 or  
26 demonstration of specific skill proficiency or understanding of  
27 concepts through work or experience.

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