

HB 2973-S - DIGEST

(DIGEST AS ENACTED)

Declares an intent to create a rigorous and high quality career and technical high school alternative assessment that assures students meet state standards, and also reflects nationally recognized standards for the knowledge and skills needed to pursue employment and careers in technical fields.

Requires each high school or school district board of directors to adopt course equivalencies for career and technical high school courses offered to students at the high school. A career and technical course equivalency may be for whole or partial credit. Each school district board of directors shall develop a course equivalency approval procedure.

Provides that career and technical courses determined to be equivalent to academic core courses, in full or in part, by the high school or school district shall be accepted as meeting core requirements, including graduation requirements, if the courses are recorded on the student's transcript using the equivalent academic high school department designation and title. Full or partial credit shall be recorded as appropriate.

Requires the state board to reevaluate the graduation requirements for students enrolled in vocationally intensive and rigorous career and technical education programs, particularly those programs that lead to a certificate or credential that is state or nationally recognized. The purpose of the evaluation is to ensure that students enrolled in these programs have sufficient opportunity to earn a certificate of academic achievement, complete the program and earn the program's certificate or credential, and complete other state and local graduation requirements. The board shall reports its findings and recommendations for additional flexibility in graduation requirements, if necessary, to the legislature by December 1, 2007.

VETO MESSAGE ON SHB 2973

March 20, 2006

To the Honorable Speaker and Members,
The House of Representatives of the State of Washington

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am returning, without my approval as to Section 5,
Substitute House Bill No. 2973 entitled:

"AN ACT Relating to creating a career and technical high school graduation option for students meeting state standards in fundamental academic content areas."

This bill authorizes local school boards to develop approval processes for high school course equivalencies. Requirements are established for students in career and technical education programs who may earn whole or partial academic credits. Further, the State Board of Education is directed to reevaluate the graduation requirements for students enrolled in vocational and technical education courses. Topics of the evaluation are enumerated. Findings and any recommendations are to be reported by December 1, 2007.

I have vetoed Section 5, which provides for the development of objective alternative assessments for career and technical education programs. The provisions and language of this Section are duplicative of provisions for alternative assessments for career and technical education programs found in SB 6475.

For this reason, I have vetoed Section 5 of Substitute House Bill 2973.

With the exception of Section 5, Substitute House Bill No. 2973 is approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine O. Gregoire
Governor