
Education Committee

ESSB 5450

Brief Description: Allowing students whose individualized education program continues beyond high school to participate in high school graduation ceremonies.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education (originally sponsored by Senators Rasmussen, McAuliffe, Tom and Keiser).

Brief Summary of Engrossed Substitute Bill

- Allows a student receiving special education services to participate in high school commencement exercises and receive a certificate of attendance if the student has attended four years of high school and has an Individualized Education Program that prescribes continued special education or related services beyond the fourth year of high school.

Hearing Date: 3/15/07

Staff: Andrew Colvin (786-7304).

Background:

The State Board of Education (SBE) determines the minimum state high school graduation requirements. School districts may adopt additional graduation requirements. Students are generally assigned an expected graduation year based on the year they begin ninth grade. However, students receiving special education services are assigned an expected year of graduation in the year they turn sixteen based on the students' Individualized Education Program (IEP).

School districts must adopt written policies and procedures for meeting the unique needs of students receiving special education services. These procedures must allow special education students to remain in school until the student graduates or reaches age 21. As a result, a student's IEP may provide for the student to continue in high school beyond the student's fourth year.

Summary of Bill:

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Beginning July 1, 2007, school districts must adopt policies and procedures to allow a student receiving special education services under an Individualized Education Program (IEP) that provides for special education or related services beyond the fourth year of high school to participate in high school graduation ceremonies and receive a certificate of attendance

Participation in graduation ceremonies and receipt of a certificate of attendance do not constitute receipt of a high school diploma or a Certificate of Individual Achievement, nor do they preclude the continuation of special education services under an IEP beyond the graduation ceremony.

The act may be known as "Kevin's law."

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: This bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect immediately.