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SENATE BILL 6597

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State of Washington

61st Legislature

2010 Regular Session

By Senators Kastama and Shin

Read first time 01/18/10. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to high school graduation requirements; and  
2 reenacting and amending RCW 28A.230.090.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.230.090 and 2009 c 548 s 111 and 2009 c 223 s 2  
5 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

6 (1) The state board of education shall establish high school  
7 graduation requirements or equivalencies for students, except those  
8 equivalencies established by local high schools or school districts  
9 under RCW 28A.230.097. The purpose of a high school diploma is to  
10 declare that a student is ready for success in postsecondary education,  
11 gainful employment, and citizenship, and is equipped with the skills to  
12 be a lifelong learner.

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

17 (b) The certificate of academic achievement requirements under RCW  
18 28A.655.061 or the certificate of individual achievement requirements

1 under RCW 28A.155.045 are required for graduation from a public high  
2 school but are not the only requirements for graduation.

3 (c) A completed application to a postsecondary education program,  
4 including a four-year college or university program, community college  
5 or technical program, private career school program, or apprenticeship  
6 program, is required for graduation from a public high school but is  
7 not the only requirement for graduation.

8 (d) Any decision on whether a student has met the state board's  
9 high school graduation requirements for a high school and beyond plan  
10 shall remain at the local level.

11 (2)(a) In recognition of the statutory authority of the state board  
12 of education to establish and enforce minimum high school graduation  
13 requirements, the state board shall periodically reevaluate the  
14 graduation requirements and shall report such findings to the  
15 legislature in a timely manner as determined by the state board.

16 (b) The state board shall reevaluate the graduation requirements  
17 for students enrolled in vocationally intensive and rigorous career and  
18 technical education programs, particularly those programs that lead to  
19 a certificate or credential that is state or nationally recognized.  
20 The purpose of the evaluation is to ensure that students enrolled in  
21 these programs have sufficient opportunity to earn a certificate of  
22 academic achievement, complete the program and earn the program's  
23 certificate or credential, and complete other state and local  
24 graduation requirements.

25 (c) The state board shall forward any proposed changes to the high  
26 school graduation requirements to the education committees of the  
27 legislature for review and to the quality education council established  
28 under RCW 28A.290.010. The legislature shall have the opportunity to  
29 act during a regular legislative session before the changes are adopted  
30 through administrative rule by the state board. Changes that have a  
31 fiscal impact on school districts, as identified by a fiscal analysis  
32 prepared by the office of the superintendent of public instruction,  
33 shall take effect only if formally authorized and funded by the  
34 legislature through the omnibus appropriations act or other enacted  
35 legislation.

36 (3) Pursuant to any requirement for instruction in languages other  
37 than English established by the state board of education or a local  
38 school district, or both, for purposes of high school graduation,

1 students who receive instruction in American sign language or one or  
2 more American Indian languages shall be considered to have satisfied  
3 the state or local school district graduation requirement for  
4 instruction in one or more languages other than English.

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

9 (a) The course was taken with high school students, if the academic  
10 level of the course exceeds the requirements for seventh and eighth  
11 grade classes, and the student has successfully passed by completing  
12 the same course requirements and examinations as the high school  
13 students enrolled in the class; or

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

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

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

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