
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1412

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By House Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Bergquist, Zeiger, Maxwell, Reykdal, Kagi, Riccelli, Santos, Fitzgibbon, Tarleton, Lytton, Pollet, Farrell, Freeman, Ryu, Stonier, Stanford, Hunt, Van De Wege, Kochmar, Buys, Magendanz, Hayes, O'Ban, Fey, Morrell, and Jenkins)

READ FIRST TIME 02/22/13.

1 AN ACT Relating to community service as a high school graduation
2 requirement; amending RCW 28A.230.090; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that volunteering
5 connects students to their communities and provides an opportunity for
6 students to practice and apply their academic and social skills in
7 preparation for entering the workforce. Community service can better
8 prepare and inspire students to continue their education beyond high
9 school. Community service is also associated with increased civic
10 awareness and participation by students. Therefore, the legislature
11 intends to incorporate an expectation for each student to participate
12 in community service as one aspect of meeting high school graduation
13 requirements.

14 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.230.090 and 2011 c 203 s 2 are each amended to
15 read as follows:

16 (1) The state board of education shall establish high school
17 graduation requirements or equivalencies for students, except as
18 provided in RCW 28A.230.122 and except those equivalencies established

1 by local high schools or school districts under RCW 28A.230.097. The
2 purpose of a high school diploma is to declare that a student is ready
3 for success in postsecondary education, gainful employment, and
4 citizenship, and is equipped with the skills to be a lifelong learner.

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

9 (b) The certificate of academic achievement requirements under RCW
10 28A.655.061 or the certificate of individual achievement requirements
11 under RCW 28A.155.045 are required for graduation from a public high
12 school but are not the only requirements for graduation.

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

16 (d) Beginning with the graduating class of 2017, each student must
17 complete community service, to be explained and documented using the
18 student's culminating project. Additional parameters and requirements
19 for the community service may be established only by a school district
20 board of directors. A student who has completed the community service
21 requirement of a school district and transfers in the senior year to
22 another school district is not required to complete additional
23 community service under this section.

24 (2)(a) In recognition of the statutory authority of the state board
25 of education to establish and enforce minimum high school graduation
26 requirements, the state board shall periodically reevaluate the
27 graduation requirements and shall report such findings to the
28 legislature in a timely manner as determined by the state board.

29 (b) The state board shall reevaluate the graduation requirements
30 for students enrolled in vocationally intensive and rigorous career and
31 technical education programs, particularly those programs that lead to
32 a certificate or credential that is state or nationally recognized.
33 The purpose of the evaluation is to ensure that students enrolled in
34 these programs have sufficient opportunity to earn a certificate of
35 academic achievement, complete the program and earn the program's
36 certificate or credential, and complete other state and local
37 graduation requirements.

1 (c) The state board shall forward any proposed changes to the high
2 school graduation requirements to the education committees of the
3 legislature for review and to the quality education council established
4 under RCW 28A.290.010. The legislature shall have the opportunity to
5 act during a regular legislative session before the changes are adopted
6 through administrative rule by the state board. Changes that have a
7 fiscal impact on school districts, as identified by a fiscal analysis
8 prepared by the office of the superintendent of public instruction,
9 shall take effect only if formally authorized and funded by the
10 legislature through the omnibus appropriations act or other enacted
11 legislation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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