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ENGROSSED SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2540

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State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By House Appropriations Subcommittee on Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Stonier, Morrell, Magendanz, Fey, Bergquist, Haigh, Freeman, and Lytton; by request of Governor Inslee)

READ FIRST TIME 02/11/14.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing career and technical course  
2 equivalencies in science and mathematics; amending RCW 28A.700.070,  
3 28A.230.097, and 28A.230.010; adding a new section to chapter 28A.305  
4 RCW; creating new sections; and providing an effective date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that an increasing  
7 number of career opportunities in high-demand fields will require solid  
8 knowledge and skills in science, technology, engineering, and  
9 mathematics, including opportunities at all levels of postsecondary  
10 education from apprenticeship to industry certification to  
11 postbaccalaureate degrees.

12 (2) The legislature further finds that career and technical courses  
13 can be designed to offer rigorous academic content through applied  
14 learning that is relevant and engaging for students. However, although  
15 there is a requirement that school districts adopt policies regarding  
16 granting academic credit for equivalent career and technical courses,  
17 in practice these policies are not applied in a consistent fashion  
18 across the state.

1 (3) Therefore, in order to offer high school students increased  
2 flexibility and expanded opportunities to gain critical knowledge and  
3 skills and meet high school graduation requirements in mathematics and  
4 science, the legislature intends to require establishment of a  
5 standardized set of career and technical course equivalents through a  
6 process that assures the courses are both rigorous and relevant for  
7 students. Further, the legislature intends to offer high school  
8 students the opportunity to access career and technical education  
9 course equivalencies for mathematics and science.

10 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.700.070 and 2008 c 170 s 201 are each amended to  
11 read as follows:

12 (1) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
13 support school district efforts under RCW 28A.230.097 to adopt course  
14 equivalencies for career and technical courses by:

15 (a) Recommending career and technical curriculum suitable for  
16 course equivalencies;

17 (b) Publicizing best practices for high schools and school  
18 districts in developing and adopting course equivalencies; and

19 (c) In consultation with the Washington association for career and  
20 technical education, providing professional development, technical  
21 assistance, and guidance for school districts seeking to expand their  
22 lists of equivalent courses.

23 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
24 provide professional development, technical assistance, and guidance  
25 for school districts to develop career and technical course  
26 equivalencies that also qualify as advanced placement courses.

27 (3) The office of the superintendent of public instruction, in  
28 consultation with one or more technical working groups convened for  
29 this purpose, shall develop curriculum frameworks for a selected list  
30 of career and technical courses that may be offered by high schools or  
31 skill centers whose content in science, technology, engineering, and  
32 mathematics is considered equivalent in full or in part to science or  
33 mathematics courses that meet high school graduation requirements. The  
34 content of the courses must be aligned with state essential academic  
35 learning requirements to reflect the common core state standards in  
36 mathematics and the next generation science standards and industry  
37 standards. The office shall submit the list of equivalent career and

1 technical courses and their curriculum frameworks to the state board of  
2 education for review, an opportunity for public comment, and approval.  
3 The first list of courses under this subsection must be developed and  
4 approved before the 2015-16 school year. Thereafter, the office may  
5 periodically update or revise the list of courses using the process in  
6 this subsection.

7 (4) Subject to funds appropriated for this purpose, the office of  
8 the superintendent of public instruction shall allocate grant funds to  
9 school districts to increase the integration and rigor of academic  
10 instruction in career and technical courses. Grant recipients are  
11 encouraged to use grant funds to support teams of academic and  
12 technical teachers using a research-based professional development  
13 model supported by the national research center for career and  
14 technical education. The office of the superintendent of public  
15 instruction may require that grant recipients provide matching  
16 resources using federal Carl Perkins funds or other fund sources.

17 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.230.097 and 2013 c 241 s 2 are each amended to  
18 read as follows:

19 (1) Each high school or school district board of directors shall  
20 adopt course equivalencies for career and technical high school courses  
21 offered to students in high schools and skill centers. A career and  
22 technical course equivalency may be for whole or partial credit. Each  
23 school district board of directors shall develop a course equivalency  
24 approval procedure. Boards of directors must approve AP computer  
25 science courses as equivalent to high school mathematics or science,  
26 and must denote on a student's transcript that AP computer science  
27 qualifies as a math-based quantitative course for students who take the  
28 course in their senior year. In order for a board to approve AP  
29 computer science as equivalent to high school mathematics, the student  
30 must be concurrently enrolled in or have successfully completed algebra  
31 II. Beginning no later than the 2015-16 school year, a school district  
32 board of directors must, at a minimum, grant academic course  
33 equivalency in mathematics or science for a high school career and  
34 technical course from the list of courses approved by the state board  
35 of education under RCW 28A.700.070, but is not limited to the courses  
36 on the list. If the list of courses is revised after the 2015-16

1 school year, the school district board of directors must grant academic  
2 course equivalency based on the revised list beginning with the school  
3 year immediately following the revision.

4 (2) Career and technical courses determined to be equivalent to  
5 academic core courses, in full or in part, by the high school or school  
6 district shall be accepted as meeting core requirements, including  
7 graduation requirements, if the courses are recorded on the student's  
8 transcript using the equivalent academic high school department  
9 designation and title. Full or partial credit shall be recorded as  
10 appropriate. The high school or school district shall also issue and  
11 keep record of course completion certificates that demonstrate that the  
12 career and technical courses were successfully completed as needed for  
13 industry certification, college credit, or preapprenticeship, as  
14 applicable. The certificate shall be either part of the student's high  
15 school and beyond plan or the student's culminating project, as  
16 determined by the student. The office of the superintendent of public  
17 instruction shall develop and make available electronic samples of  
18 certificates of course completion.

19 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28A.230.010 and 2003 c 49 s 1 are each amended to read  
20 as follows:

21 (1) School district boards of directors shall identify and offer  
22 courses with content that meet or exceed: ((+1)) (a) The basic  
23 education skills identified in RCW 28A.150.210; ((+2)) (b) the  
24 graduation requirements under RCW 28A.230.090; ((+3)) (c) the courses  
25 required to meet the minimum college entrance requirements under RCW  
26 28A.230.130; and ((+4)) (d) the course options for career development  
27 under RCW 28A.230.130. Such courses may be applied or theoretical,  
28 academic, or vocational.

29 (2) School district boards of directors must provide high school  
30 students with the opportunity to access at least one career and  
31 technical education course that is considered equivalent to a  
32 mathematics course or at least one career and technical education  
33 course that is considered equivalent to a science course as determined  
34 by the office of the superintendent of public instruction and the state  
35 board of education in RCW 28A.700.070. Students may access such  
36 courses at high schools, interdistrict cooperatives, skill centers or

1 branch or satellite skill centers, or through online learning or  
2 applicable running start vocational courses.

3 (3) School district boards of directors of school districts with  
4 fewer than two thousand students may apply to the state board of  
5 education for a waiver from the provisions of subsection (2) of this  
6 section.

7 NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. A new section is added to chapter 28A.305  
8 RCW to read as follows:

9 The state board of education may grant a waiver from the provisions  
10 of RCW 28A.230.010(2) based on an application from a board of directors  
11 of a school district with fewer than two thousand students.

12 NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. Sections 4 and 5 of this act take effect  
13 September 1, 2015.

14 NEW SECTION. Sec. 7. If specific funding for the purposes of this  
15 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by  
16 June 30, 2014, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and  
17 void.

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