
HOUSE BILL 2703

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2016 Regular Session

By Representatives Klippert and Kilduff

Read first time 01/19/16. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to promoting responsible and productive
2 citizenship; amending RCW 28A.230.090 and 28A.655.005; and creating a
3 new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature intends to promote good
6 citizenship by empowering schools and educators to hold students
7 accountable, through the education system, for becoming responsible
8 and productive citizens.

9 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.230.090 and 2014 c 217 s 202 are each amended to
10 read as follows:

11 (1) The state board of education shall establish high school
12 graduation requirements or equivalencies for students, except as
13 provided in RCW 28A.230.122 and except those equivalencies
14 established by local high schools or school districts under RCW
15 28A.230.097. The purpose of a high school diploma is to declare that
16 a student is ready for success in postsecondary education, gainful
17 employment, and responsible and productive citizenship, and is
18 equipped with the skills to be a lifelong learner.

19 (a) Any course in Washington state history and government used to
20 fulfill high school graduation requirements shall consider including

1 information on the culture, history, and government of the American
2 Indian peoples who were the first inhabitants of the state.

3 (b) The certificate of academic achievement requirements under
4 RCW 28A.655.061 or the certificate of individual achievement
5 requirements under RCW 28A.155.045 are required for graduation from a
6 public high school but are not the only requirements for graduation.

7 (c) Any decision on whether a student has met the state board's
8 high school graduation requirements for a high school and beyond plan
9 shall remain at the local level. Effective with the graduating class
10 of 2015, the state board of education may not establish a requirement
11 for students to complete a culminating project for graduation.

12 (d)(i) The state board of education shall adopt rules to
13 implement the career and college ready graduation requirement
14 proposal adopted under board resolution on November 10, 2010, and
15 revised on January 9, 2014, to take effect beginning with the
16 graduating class of 2019 or as otherwise provided in this subsection
17 (1)(d). The rules must include authorization for a school district to
18 waive up to two credits for individual students based on unusual
19 circumstances and in accordance with written policies that must be
20 adopted by each board of directors of a school district that grants
21 diplomas. The rules must also provide that the content of the third
22 credit of mathematics and the content of the third credit of science
23 may be chosen by the student based on the student's interests and
24 high school and beyond plan with agreement of the student's parent or
25 guardian or agreement of the school counselor or principal.

26 (ii) School districts may apply to the state board of education
27 for a waiver to implement the career and college ready graduation
28 requirement proposal beginning with the graduating class of 2020 or
29 2021 instead of the graduating class of 2019. In the application, a
30 school district must describe why the waiver is being requested, the
31 specific impediments preventing timely implementation, and efforts
32 that will be taken to achieve implementation with the graduating
33 class proposed under the waiver. The state board of education shall
34 grant a waiver under this subsection (1)(d) to an applying school
35 district at the next subsequent meeting of the board after receiving
36 an application.

37 (2)(a) In recognition of the statutory authority of the state
38 board of education to establish and enforce minimum high school
39 graduation requirements, the state board shall periodically
40 reevaluate the graduation requirements and shall report such findings

1 to the legislature in a timely manner as determined by the state
2 board.

3 (b) The state board shall reevaluate the graduation requirements
4 for students enrolled in vocationally intensive and rigorous career
5 and technical education programs, particularly those programs that
6 lead to a certificate or credential that is state or nationally
7 recognized. The purpose of the evaluation is to ensure that students
8 enrolled in these programs have sufficient opportunity to earn a
9 certificate of academic achievement, complete the program and earn
10 the program's certificate or credential, and complete other state and
11 local graduation requirements.

12 (c) The state board shall forward any proposed changes to the
13 high school graduation requirements to the education committees of
14 the legislature for review and to the quality education council
15 established under RCW 28A.290.010. The legislature shall have the
16 opportunity to act during a regular legislative session before the
17 changes are adopted through administrative rule by the state board.
18 Changes that have a fiscal impact on school districts, as identified
19 by a fiscal analysis prepared by the office of the superintendent of
20 public instruction, shall take effect only if formally authorized and
21 funded by the legislature through the omnibus appropriations act or
22 other enacted legislation.

23 (3) Pursuant to any requirement for instruction in languages
24 other than English established by the state board of education or a
25 local school district, or both, for purposes of high school
26 graduation, students who receive instruction in American sign
27 language or one or more American Indian languages shall be considered
28 to have satisfied the state or local school district graduation
29 requirement for instruction in one or more languages other than
30 English.

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

35 (a) The course was taken with high school students, if the
36 academic level of the course exceeds the requirements for seventh and
37 eighth grade classes, and the student has successfully passed by
38 completing the same course requirements and examinations as the high
39 school students enrolled in the class; or

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

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

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

13 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.655.005 and 1999 c 388 s 1 are each amended to
14 read as follows:

15 The legislature finds that the purpose of Washington's
16 accountability system is to improve student learning and student
17 achievement of the essential academic learning requirement standards
18 so that each individual student will be given the opportunity to
19 become a responsible and productive citizen and successfully live,
20 learn, and work in the twenty-first century. To achieve this purpose,
21 the accountability system should be based on student achievement and
22 continuous improvement at all levels of Washington's education system
23 and on a fundamental principle that all public school students have
24 access to curriculum and instruction that is aligned to the
25 standards.

26 The legislature further finds that the accountability system
27 should rely on local responsibility and leadership. Districts and
28 schools should be expected to improve and be evaluated based on their
29 improvement over time. Districts should recognize exceptional
30 progress and work closely with schools needing assistance.

31 The legislature further finds that the accountability system must
32 be simple to use and understand. Consequences must be predictable and
33 fair. Differences among students, schools, and districts should be
34 recognized and respected as the system is implemented. There should
35 be a balance of each student's right to privacy and the public's
36 right to know the overall levels of learning and achievement at the
37 school, district, and state levels. In addition, the accountability
38 system should be continuously reviewed and improved as more is

1 learned about how schools operate to meet the learning needs of
2 Washington's students.

--- END ---