

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5498

As of January 10, 2022

Title: An act relating to posthumous high school diplomas.

Brief Description: Awarding diplomas posthumously.

Sponsors: Senator Wilson, C..

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Early Learning & K-12 Education: 1/14/22.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires school districts, if requested by the student's parent, guardian, or custodian, to issue a high school diploma to a deceased student if the student was academically eligible to graduate or had completed at least 75 percent of the number of credits required to graduate, and died after completing the 11th grade school year.
- Establishes that districts are not required to award a diploma to a deceased student at the same ceremony or event as other graduating students.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EARLY LEARNING & K-12 EDUCATION

Staff: Benjamin Omdal (786-7442)

Background: High School Diplomas. To graduate from high school, a student must satisfy requirements set by the State Board of Education (SBE), satisfy credit requirements, complete a High School and Beyond Plan, and meet the requirements of a graduation pathway. In addition, a student must meet any additional requirements set by the student's public high school or school district.

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

Upon students' satisfactory completion of all local and state graduation requirements, school districts must issue diplomas to students signifying graduation from high school.

In 2002, the Legislature gave districts the ability to issue a high school diploma to certain groups of veterans of the armed forces, including to an individual on behalf of a deceased veteran.

Summary of Bill: At the request of the parent, guardian, or custodian, a school district must issue a high school diploma to a deceased student if the student:

- was enrolled in a public school in the district at the time of death;
- was academically eligible to graduate or had completed at least 75 percent of the total number of credits required for graduation as established by the State Board of Education; and
- died after completing the 11th grade school year.

The high school diploma may not be issued before the graduation date of the class in which the student was enrolled. Districts are not required to award the diploma at the same ceremony or event as other students.

The act may be known and cited as Evitan's Law.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 5, 2022.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.