
HOUSE BILL 2216

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Representatives Zeiger, Farrell, Johnson, Haler, Haigh, Stonier, Moscoso, Tarleton, Ryu, and Bergquist

Read first time 01/14/14. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to encouraging the inclusion of local history
2 information in school curriculum; 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 2011 c 203 s 2 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) The state board of education shall establish high school
7 graduation requirements or equivalencies for students, except as
8 provided in RCW 28A.230.122 and except those equivalencies established
9 by local high schools or school districts under RCW 28A.230.097. The
10 purpose of a high school diploma is to declare that a student is ready
11 for success in postsecondary education, gainful employment, and
12 citizenship, and is equipped with the skills to 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. Each
17 school district is encouraged to include information on local history
18 in its curriculum, which may include visits to local landmarks and

1 museums, readings on local history, and interaction with local
2 historical societies.

3 (b) The certificate of academic achievement requirements under RCW
4 28A.655.061 or the certificate of individual achievement requirements
5 under RCW 28A.155.045 are required for graduation from a public high
6 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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