CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2973

Chapter 114, Laws of 2006

(partial veto)

59th Legislature
2006 Regular Session

CAREER AND TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION OPTION

EFFECTIVE DATE: 6/7/06

Passed by the House March 4, 2006
Yeas 95  Nays 0

FRANK CHOPP
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Passed by the Senate March 1, 2006
Yeas 47  Nays 0

BRAD OWEN
President of the Senate

Approved March 20, 2006, with the exception of section 5, which is vetoed.

CERTIFICATE

I, Richard Nafziger, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2973 as passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on the dates hereon set forth.

RICHARD NAFZIGER
Chief Clerk

FILED
March 20, 2006 - 10:25 a.m.

CHRISTINE GREGOIRE
Governor of the State of Washington

SECRETARY OF STATE
State of Washington
AN ACT Relating to creating a career and technical high school graduation option for students meeting state standards in fundamental academic content areas; amending RCW 28A.230.090 and 28A.230.100; adding a new section to chapter 28A.230 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28C.04 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

NEW SECTION. Sec. 1. (1) The legislature finds that Washington's performance-based education system should seek to provide fundamental academic knowledge and skills for all students, and to provide the opportunity for students to acquire knowledge and skills likely to contribute to their own economic well-being and that of their families and communities.

(2) The legislature recognizes that career and technical options are available for students.

(3) High schools or school districts should take advantage of their opportunity to offer course credits, including credits toward graduation requirements, for knowledge and skills in fundamental academic content areas that students gain in career and technical education courses.
(4) Therefore the legislature intends to create a rigorous and high
quality career and technical high school alternative assessment that
assures students meet state standards, and also reflects nationally
recognized standards for the knowledge and skills needed to pursue
employment and careers in technical fields.

NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 28A.230
RCW to read as follows:

(1) Each high school or school district board of directors shall
adopt course equivalencies for career and technical high school courses
offered to students at the high school. A career and technical course
equivalency may be for whole or partial credit. Each school district
board of directors shall develop a course equivalency approval
procedure.

(2) Career and technical courses determined to be equivalent to
academic core courses, in full or in part, by the high school or school
district shall be accepted as meeting core requirements, including
graduation requirements, if the courses are recorded on the student's
transcript using the equivalent academic high school department
designation and title. Full or partial credit shall be recorded as
appropriate.

Sec. 3. RCW 28A.230.090 and 2005 c 205 s 3 are each amended to
read as follows:

(1) The state board of education shall establish high school
graduation requirements or equivalencies for students, except those
equivalencies established by local high schools or school districts
under section 2 of this act.

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

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

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

(2) In recognition of the statutory authority of the state board of education to establish and enforce minimum high school graduation requirements, the state board shall periodically reevaluate the graduation requirements and shall report such findings to the legislature in a timely manner as determined by the state board. The state board shall reevaluate the graduation requirements for students enrolled in vocationally intensive and rigorous career and technical education programs, particularly those programs that lead to a certificate or credential that is state or nationally recognized. The purpose of the evaluation is to ensure that students enrolled in these programs have sufficient opportunity to earn a certificate of academic achievement, complete the program and earn the program's certificate or credential, and complete other state and local graduation requirements. The board shall report its findings and recommendations for additional flexibility in graduation requirements, if necessary, to the legislature by December 1, 2007.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sec. 4. RCW 28A.230.100 and 1991 c 116 s 8 are each amended to
read as follows:

The state board of education shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter
34.05 RCW, to implement the course requirements set forth in RCW
28A.230.090. The rules shall include, as the state board deems
necessary, granting equivalencies for and temporary exemptions from the
course requirements in RCW 28A.230.090 and special alterations of the
course requirements in RCW 28A.230.090. In developing such rules the
state board shall recognize the relevance of vocational and applied
courses and allow such courses to fulfill in whole or in part the
courses required for graduation in RCW 28A.230.090, as determined by
the high school or school district in accordance with section 2 of this
act. The rules may include provisions for competency testing in lieu
of such courses required for graduation in RCW 28A.230.090 or
demonstration of specific skill proficiency or understanding of
concepts through work or experience.

*NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. A new section is added to chapter 28C.04 RCW
to read as follows:

(1) The superintendent of public instruction shall develop an
objective alternative assessment for career and technical education
programs. The objective alternative assessment shall be comparable in
rigor to the skills and knowledge that the student must demonstrate on
the Washington assessment of student learning.

(2) The alternative assessment shall include an evaluation of a
collection of work samples prepared and submitted by an applicant who
is enrolled in a career and technical education program. The
superintendent of public instruction shall develop guidelines for the
collection of work samples that evidences that the collection:
(a) Is relevant to the student's particular career and technical program;

(b) Focuses on the application of academic knowledge and skills within the program;

(c) Includes completed activities or projects where demonstration of academic knowledge is inferred; and

(d) Is related to the essential academic learning requirements and state standards that students must meet to earn a certificate of academic achievement or certificate of individual achievement, but also represents the knowledge and skills that successful individuals in the career and technical field of the approved program are expected to possess.

(3) In developing the work samples for subsection (2) of this section, the superintendent shall consult with community and technical colleges, employers, the work force training and education coordinating board, apprenticeship programs, and other regional and national experts in career and technical education to create an appropriate collection of work samples and other evidence of a career and technical student's knowledge and skills on the state academic standards.

*Sec. 5 was vetoed. See message at end of chapter.*

Passed by the House March 4, 2006.
Passed by the Senate March 1, 2006.
Approved by the Governor March 20, 2006, with the exception of certain items that were vetoed.
Filed in Office of Secretary of State March 20, 2006.

Note: Governor's explanation of partial veto is as follows:

"I am returning, without my approval as to Section 5, Substitute House Bill No. 2973 entitled:

"AN ACT Relating to creating a career and technical high school graduation option for students meeting state standards in fundamental academic content areas."

This bill authorizes local school boards to develop approval processes for high school course equivalencies. Requirements are established for students in career and technical education programs who may earn whole or partial academic credits. Further, the State Board of Education is directed to reevaluate the graduation requirements for students enrolled in vocational and technical education courses. Topics of the evaluation are enumerated. Findings and any recommendations are to be reported by December 1, 2007.

I have vetoed Section 5, which provides for the development of objective alternative assessments for career and technical education programs. The provisions and language of this Section are duplicative of provisions for alternative assessments for career and technical education programs found in SB 6475.

For this reason, I have vetoed Section 5 of Substitute House Bill 2973.
With the exception of Section 5, Substitute House Bill No. 2973 is approved."