

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6533

As of February 3, 2010

Title: An act relating to granting high school credit for learning experiences.

Brief Description: Granting high school credit for learning experiences.

Sponsors: Senators Roach and Gordon.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Early Learning & K-12 Education: 2/04/10.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EARLY LEARNING & K-12 EDUCATION

Staff: Susan Mielke (786-7422)

Background: The Legislature has delegated to the State Board of Education (SBE) the authority to establish high school graduation requirements. Currently a high school student must successfully obtain a minimum 19 high school credits to graduate (20 for the class of 2013 and beyond). Those credits are distributed as follows:

- English – 3 credits
- Mathematics – 2 credits (3 for class of 2013 and beyond)
- Science – 2 credits (1 must be a lab)
- Social Studies – 2.5 credits (including U.S. and Washington State History)
- Visual or Performing Arts – 1 credit
- Health and Fitness – 2 credit
- Occupational Education – 1 credit (means credits resulting from a series of learning experiences designed to assist the student to acquire and demonstrate competency of skills under student learning goal four and which skills are required for success in current and emerging occupations. At a minimum, these competencies must align with the definition of an exploratory course as proposed or adopted in the career and technical education program standards of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.)
- Electives – 5.5 credits

The SBE rules permit local school districts to determine which district courses satisfy the state requirements. The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction has a rule that permits school or approved out-of-school learning experiences to receive credit by the school

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district. If a school district permits such granting of credit for out-of-school learning activities then the school board must make the written policy available upon request.

Summary of Bill: The SBE must adopt a rule that provides for high school credits for physical education, visual and performing arts, and elective requirements for educational experiences selected by parents and students.

By September 1, 2011, each school district must adopt a policy permitting high school credit for certain educational experiences selected by parents and students and must grant such credit to students. Experiences qualifying for such credit include, but are not limited to, activities under the supervision of the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association or other nonprofit voluntary entities responsible for interschool extracurricular activities, other activities recognized by regional organizations, and other activities approved by the school board.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

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