
SENATE BILL 5349

State of Washington**55th Legislature****1997 Regular Session**

By Senators Roach, Rasmussen, Winsley, Swecker, Zarelli, Finkbeiner, Morton, Stevens, Schow and Oke

Read first time 01/23/97. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to high school graduation requirements; amending
2 RCW 28A.230.090; adding a new section to chapter 28A.320 RCW; and
3 creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that students
6 gain learning experiences through many activities selected by students
7 and parents outside the classroom environment. The legislature finds
8 that recognizing the value of these educational activities through
9 awarding high school physical education and elective credits for
10 participation in these activities will help encourage parental
11 involvement in their children's education, improve student learning
12 through encouraging students to take advantage of a broader variety of
13 educational opportunities, and provide students with the time to take
14 additional academic courses during the school day.

15 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.230.090 and 1993 c 371 s 3 are each amended to
16 read as follows:

17 (1) The state board of education shall establish high school
18 graduation requirements or equivalencies for students. Any course in

1 Washington state history and government used to fulfill high school
2 graduation requirements is encouraged to include information on the
3 culture, history, and government of the American Indian peoples who
4 were the first inhabitants of the state.

5 (2) In recognition of the statutory authority of the state board of
6 education to establish and enforce minimum high school graduation
7 requirements, the state board shall periodically reevaluate the
8 graduation requirements and shall report such findings to the
9 legislature in a timely manner as determined by the state board.

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

17 (4) The state board of education shall provide by rule for high
18 school credit equivalencies for physical education and elective
19 requirements for educational experiences selected by parents and
20 students consistent with policies adopted by local school boards under
21 section 3 of this act.

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

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

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

36 ((+5)) (6) Students who have taken and successfully completed high
37 school courses under the circumstances in subsection ((+4)) (5) of
38 this section shall not be required to take an additional competency
39 examination or perform any other additional assignment to receive

1 credit. Subsection ((+4)) (5) of this section shall also apply to
2 students enrolled in high school on April 11, 1990, who took the
3 courses before attending high school.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.320
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 A school district board of directors shall grant high school
7 credit for certain educational experiences selected by parents and
8 students consistent with the policies adopted by the school board. By
9 September 1997, each school district board of directors shall adopt a
10 policy granting high school credit for certain educational experiences
11 selected by students or parents. The policy shall describe the number
12 of credits granted and the equivalencies for the district's current
13 high school graduation requirements for electives and physical
14 education. Experiences qualifying for educational credit shall include
15 but not be limited to activities under the supervision of the
16 Washington interscholastic activities association or other nonprofit
17 voluntary entity responsible for interschool extracurricular
18 activities; other activities approved by the school board and
19 recognized by regional organizations; and other activities approved by
20 the school board.

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