

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

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**Speaker of the House of Representatives**

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

BRAD OWEN

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**President of the Senate**

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

CHRISTINE GREGOIRE

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**Governor of the State of Washington**

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

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**Chief Clerk**

FILED

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

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2973**

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AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2006 Regular Session

**State of Washington                      59th Legislature                      2006 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Priest, Ormsby, Kenney, Kagi, Hasegawa, P. Sullivan, Moeller, Santos and Springer)

READ FIRST TIME 02/03/06.

1            AN ACT Relating to creating a career and technical high school  
2 graduation option for students meeting state standards in fundamental  
3 academic content areas; amending RCW 28A.230.090 and 28A.230.100;  
4 adding a new section to chapter 28A.230 RCW; adding a new section to  
5 chapter 28C.04 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

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

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

15            (3) High schools or school districts should take advantage of their  
16 opportunity to offer course credits, including credits toward  
17 graduation requirements, for knowledge and skills in fundamental  
18 academic content areas that students gain in career and technical  
19 education courses.

1 (4) Therefore the legislature intends to create a rigorous and high  
2 quality career and technical high school alternative assessment that  
3 assures students meet state standards, and also reflects nationally  
4 recognized standards for the knowledge and skills needed to pursue  
5 employment and careers in technical fields.

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

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

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

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

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

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

31 (b) The certificate of academic achievement requirements under RCW  
32 28A.655.061 or the certificate of individual achievement requirements  
33 under RCW 28A.155.045 are required for graduation from a public high  
34 school but are not the only requirements for graduation.

35 (c) Any decision on whether a student has met the state board's

1 high school graduation requirements for a high school and beyond plan  
2 shall remain at the local level.

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

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

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

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

35 (b) The academic level of the course exceeds the requirements for  
36 seventh and eighth grade classes and the course would qualify for high  
37 school credit, because the course is similar or equivalent to a course

1 offered at a high school in the district as determined by the school  
2 district board of directors.

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

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

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

11 The state board of education shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter  
12 34.05 RCW, to implement the course requirements set forth in RCW  
13 28A.230.090. The rules shall include, as the state board deems  
14 necessary, granting equivalencies for and temporary exemptions from the  
15 course requirements in RCW 28A.230.090 and special alterations of the  
16 course requirements in RCW 28A.230.090. In developing such rules the  
17 state board shall recognize the relevance of vocational and applied  
18 courses and allow such courses to fulfill in whole or in part the  
19 courses required for graduation in RCW 28A.230.090, as determined by  
20 the high school or school district in accordance with section 2 of this  
21 act. The rules may include provisions for competency testing in lieu  
22 of such courses required for graduation in RCW 28A.230.090 or  
23 demonstration of specific skill proficiency or understanding of  
24 concepts through work or experience.

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

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

32 ***(2) The alternative assessment shall include an evaluation of a***  
33 ***collection of work samples prepared and submitted by an applicant who***  
34 ***is enrolled in a career and technical education program. The***  
35 ***superintendent of public instruction shall develop guidelines for the***  
36 ***collection of work samples that evidences that the collection:***

1 (a) Is relevant to the student's particular career and technical  
2 program;

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

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

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

13 (3) In developing the work samples for subsection (2) of this  
14 section, the superintendent shall consult with community and technical  
15 colleges, employers, the work force training and education coordinating  
16 board, apprenticeship programs, and other regional and national experts  
17 in career and technical education to create an appropriate collection  
18 of work samples and other evidence of a career and technical student's  
19 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."