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HOUSE BILL 2540

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State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Representatives Stonier, Morrell, Magendanz, Fey, Bergquist, Haigh, Freeman, and Lytton; by request of Governor Inslee

Read first time 01/20/14. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing career and technical course  
2 equivalencies in science and mathematics; amending RCW 28A.700.070,  
3 28A.230.097, and 28A.230.010; creating a new section; and providing an  
4 effective date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that an increasing  
7 number of career opportunities in high-demand fields will require solid  
8 knowledge and skills in science, technology, engineering, and  
9 mathematics, including opportunities at all levels of postsecondary  
10 education from apprenticeship to industry certification to  
11 postbaccalaureate degrees.

12 (2) The legislature further finds that career and technical courses  
13 can be designed to offer rigorous academic content through applied  
14 learning that is relevant and engaging for students. However, although  
15 there is a requirement that school districts adopt policies regarding  
16 granting academic credit for equivalent career and technical courses,  
17 in practice these policies are not applied in a consistent fashion  
18 across the state.

1 (3) Therefore, in order to offer high school students increased  
2 flexibility and expanded opportunities to gain critical knowledge and  
3 skills and meet high school graduation requirements in mathematics and  
4 science, the legislature intends to require establishment of a  
5 standardized set of career and technical course equivalents through a  
6 process that assures the courses are both rigorous and relevant for  
7 students. Further, the legislature intends to offer high school  
8 students the opportunity to access career and technical education  
9 course equivalencies for mathematics and science.

10 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.700.070 and 2008 c 170 s 201 are each amended to  
11 read as follows:

12 (1) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
13 support school district efforts under RCW 28A.230.097 to adopt course  
14 equivalencies for career and technical courses by:

15 (a) Recommending career and technical curriculum suitable for  
16 course equivalencies;

17 (b) Publicizing best practices for high schools and school  
18 districts in developing and adopting course equivalencies; and

19 (c) In consultation with the Washington association for career and  
20 technical education, providing professional development, technical  
21 assistance, and guidance for school districts seeking to expand their  
22 lists of equivalent courses.

23 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
24 provide professional development, technical assistance, and guidance  
25 for school districts to develop career and technical course  
26 equivalencies that also qualify as advanced placement courses.

27 (3) The office of the superintendent of public instruction, in  
28 consultation with one or more technical working groups convened for  
29 this purpose, shall develop curriculum frameworks for a selected list  
30 of career and technical courses that may be offered by high schools or  
31 skill centers whose content in science, technology, engineering, and  
32 mathematics is considered equivalent in full or in part to science or  
33 mathematics courses that meet high school graduation requirements. The  
34 content of the courses must be aligned with state essential academic  
35 learning requirements and industry standards. The office shall submit  
36 the list of equivalent career and technical courses and their  
37 curriculum frameworks to the state board of education for review, an

1 opportunity for public comment, and approval. The first list of  
2 courses under this subsection must be developed and approved before the  
3 2015-16 school year. Thereafter, the office may periodically update or  
4 revise the list of courses using the process in this subsection.

5 (4) Subject to funds appropriated for this purpose, the office of  
6 the superintendent of public instruction shall allocate grant funds to  
7 school districts to increase the integration and rigor of academic  
8 instruction in career and technical courses. Grant recipients are  
9 encouraged to use grant funds to support teams of academic and  
10 technical teachers using a research-based professional development  
11 model supported by the national research center for career and  
12 technical education. The office of the superintendent of public  
13 instruction may require that grant recipients provide matching  
14 resources using federal Carl Perkins funds or other fund sources.

15 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.230.097 and 2013 c 241 s 2 are each amended to  
16 read as follows:

17 (1) Each high school or school district board of directors shall  
18 adopt course equivalencies for career and technical high school courses  
19 offered to students in high schools and skill centers. A career and  
20 technical course equivalency may be for whole or partial credit. Each  
21 school district board of directors shall develop a course equivalency  
22 approval procedure. Boards of directors must approve AP computer  
23 science courses as equivalent to high school mathematics or science,  
24 and must denote on a student's transcript that AP computer science  
25 qualifies as a math-based quantitative course for students who take the  
26 course in their senior year. In order for a board to approve AP  
27 computer science as equivalent to high school mathematics, the student  
28 must be concurrently enrolled in or have successfully completed algebra  
29 II. Beginning no later than the 2015-16 school year, a school district  
30 board of directors must, at a minimum, grant academic course  
31 equivalency in mathematics or science for a high school career and  
32 technical course from the list of courses approved by the state board  
33 of education under RCW 28A.700.070, but is not limited to the courses  
34 on the list. If the list of courses is revised after the 2015-16  
35 school year, the school district board of directors must grant academic  
36 course equivalency based on the revised list beginning with the school  
37 year immediately following the revision.

1 (2) Career and technical courses determined to be equivalent to  
2 academic core courses, in full or in part, by the high school or school  
3 district shall be accepted as meeting core requirements, including  
4 graduation requirements, if the courses are recorded on the student's  
5 transcript using the equivalent academic high school department  
6 designation and title. Full or partial credit shall be recorded as  
7 appropriate. The high school or school district shall also issue and  
8 keep record of course completion certificates that demonstrate that the  
9 career and technical courses were successfully completed as needed for  
10 industry certification, college credit, or preapprenticeship, as  
11 applicable. The certificate shall be either part of the student's high  
12 school and beyond plan or the student's culminating project, as  
13 determined by the student. The office of the superintendent of public  
14 instruction shall develop and make available electronic samples of  
15 certificates of course completion.

16 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28A.230.010 and 2003 c 49 s 1 are each amended to read  
17 as follows:

18 (1) School district boards of directors shall identify and offer  
19 courses with content that meet or exceed: ~~((+1))~~ (a) The basic  
20 education skills identified in RCW 28A.150.210; ~~((+2))~~ (b) the  
21 graduation requirements under RCW 28A.230.090; ~~((+3))~~ (c) the courses  
22 required to meet the minimum college entrance requirements under RCW  
23 28A.230.130; and ~~((+4))~~ (d) the course options for career development  
24 under RCW 28A.230.130. Such courses may be applied or theoretical,  
25 academic, or vocational.

26 (2) School district boards of directors shall ensure high school  
27 students are provided the opportunity to access career and technical  
28 education course equivalencies for mathematics and science adopted by  
29 the school board under RCW 28A.230.097. Students may access such  
30 courses at high schools, interdistrict cooperatives, skill centers or  
31 branch or satellite skill centers, or applicable running start  
32 vocational courses.

33 (3) School district boards of directors of school districts with  
34 fewer than two thousand students may apply to the state board of  
35 education for a waiver from the provisions of subsection (2) of this  
36 section.

1        NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 5.**   Section 4 of this act takes effect September  
2   1, 2015.

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