
SENATE BILL 5498

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By Senators C. Wilson, Billig, Das, Lovelett, Lovick, Nobles, Wagoner, and Wellman

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1 AN ACT Relating to posthumous high school diplomas; amending RCW
2 28A.230.120; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** This act may be known and cited as
5 Evitan's law.

6 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.230.120 and 2008 c 185 s 1 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (1) School districts shall issue diplomas to students signifying
9 graduation from high school upon the students' satisfactory
10 completion of all local and state graduation requirements. Districts
11 shall grant students the option of receiving a final transcript in
12 addition to the regular diploma.

13 (2) School districts or schools of attendance shall establish
14 policies and procedures to notify senior students of the transcript
15 option and shall direct students to indicate their decisions in a
16 timely manner. School districts shall make appropriate provisions to
17 assure that students who choose to receive a copy of their final
18 transcript shall receive such transcript after graduation.

19 (3)(a) A school district may issue a high school diploma to a
20 person who:

1 (i) Is an honorably discharged member of the armed forces of the
2 United States; and

3 (ii) Left high school before graduation to serve in World War II,
4 the Korean conflict, or the Vietnam era as defined in RCW 41.04.005.

5 (b) A school district may issue a diploma to or on behalf of a
6 person otherwise eligible under (a) of this subsection
7 notwithstanding the fact that the person holds a high school
8 equivalency certification or is deceased.

9 (c) The superintendent of public instruction shall adopt a form
10 for a diploma application to be used by a veteran or a person acting
11 on behalf of a deceased veteran under this subsection (3). The
12 superintendent of public instruction shall specify what constitutes
13 acceptable evidence of eligibility for a diploma.

14 (4)(a) A school district shall issue a high school diploma to a
15 deceased student, at the request of the parent, guardian, or
16 custodian, if the student:

17 (i) Was enrolled in a public school in the district at the time
18 of death;

19 (ii) Had completed at least 75 percent of the total number of
20 credits required for graduation as established by the state board of
21 education under RCW 28A.230.090 before the time of death; and

22 (iii) Died after the completion of the 11th grade school year or
23 equivalent.

24 (b) The high school diploma may not be issued before the
25 graduation date of the class in which the student was enrolled at the
26 time of death.

27 (c) School districts are not required to award a diploma to a
28 deceased student at the same ceremony or event as other graduating
29 students.

30 (d) Nothing in this subsection limits the retroactive issuance of
31 a high school diploma.

32 (e) Diplomas issued under this subsection (4) do not count toward
33 student graduation counts or for any other purpose of federal and
34 state accountability data collection.

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