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SENATE BILL 5477

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State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Senators Roach and Litzow

Read first time 01/31/13. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to high school diplomas; and amending RCW  
2 28A.230.090.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.230.090 and 2011 c 203 s 2 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 (1) The purpose of a high school diploma is to declare that a  
7 student is ready for success in postsecondary education, gainful  
8 employment, and citizenship, and is equipped with the skills to be a  
9 lifelong learner. The state board of education shall establish at  
10 least two high school diplomas: A standard diploma and an applied  
11 diploma.

12 (2) The state board of education shall establish high school  
13 graduation requirements or equivalencies for students, except as  
14 provided in (c) of this subsection and RCW 28A.230.122, and except  
15 those equivalencies established by local high schools or school  
16 districts under RCW 28A.230.097. (~~The purpose of a high school~~  
17 ~~diploma is to declare that a student is ready for success in~~  
18 ~~postsecondary education, gainful employment, and citizenship, and is~~  
19 ~~equipped with the skills to be a lifelong learner.))~~

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

5 (b) The certificate of academic achievement requirements under RCW  
6 28A.655.061 or the certificate of individual achievement requirements  
7 under RCW 28A.155.045 are only required for graduation from a public  
8 high school with a standard diploma but are not the only requirements  
9 for graduation with a standard diploma. A student seeking an applied  
10 diploma is not required to take or meet the state standard on the high  
11 school statewide student assessment to graduate from high school.

12 (c) In order to earn an applied diploma a student must meet all the  
13 requirements of the standard diploma, except for the certificate of  
14 academic achievement and the certificate of individual achievement  
15 requirements; and except that a student may choose to earn four credits  
16 of technology, arts, or an apprenticeship instead of meeting the credit  
17 requirements for English and mathematics. The arts credits may include  
18 industrial arts, agricultural arts, or fine arts courses.  
19 Additionally, a student must demonstrate minimum competency in English  
20 and mathematics by meeting the state standard on the eighth grade  
21 statewide student assessment in reading, writing, and mathematics and  
22 must pass at least two high school courses in English and mathematics,  
23 although the two mathematics courses are not required to be algebra I,  
24 geometry, integrated mathematics I, or integrated mathematics.

25 (d) Any decision on whether a student has met the state board's  
26 high school graduation requirements for a high school and beyond plan  
27 shall remain at the local level.

28 ((+2)) (3)(a) In recognition of the statutory authority of the  
29 state board of education to establish and enforce minimum high school  
30 graduation requirements, the state board shall periodically reevaluate  
31 the graduation requirements and shall report such findings to the  
32 legislature in a timely manner as determined by the state board.

33 (b) The state board shall reevaluate the graduation requirements  
34 for students enrolled in vocationally intensive and rigorous career and  
35 technical education programs, particularly those programs that lead to  
36 a certificate or credential that is state or nationally recognized.  
37 The purpose of the evaluation is to ensure that students enrolled in  
38 these programs have sufficient opportunity to earn a certificate of

1 academic achievement if earning a standard diploma, complete the  
2 program and earn the program's certificate or credential, and complete  
3 other state and local graduation requirements.

4 (c) The state board shall forward any proposed changes to the high  
5 school graduation requirements to the education committees of the  
6 legislature for review and to the quality education council established  
7 under RCW 28A.290.010. The legislature shall have the opportunity to  
8 act during a regular legislative session before the changes are adopted  
9 through administrative rule by the state board. Changes that have a  
10 fiscal impact on school districts, as identified by a fiscal analysis  
11 prepared by the office of the superintendent of public instruction,  
12 shall take effect only if formally authorized and funded by the  
13 legislature through the omnibus appropriations act or other enacted  
14 legislation.

15 ~~((+3))~~ (4) Pursuant to any requirement for instruction in  
16 languages other than English established by the state board of  
17 education or a local school district, or both, for purposes of high  
18 school graduation, students who receive instruction in American sign  
19 language or one or more American Indian languages shall be considered  
20 to have satisfied the state or local school district graduation  
21 requirement for instruction in one or more languages other than  
22 English.

23 ~~((+4))~~ (5) If requested by the student and his or her family, a  
24 student who has completed high school courses before attending high  
25 school shall be given high school credit which shall be applied to  
26 fulfilling high school graduation requirements if:

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

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

37 ~~((+5))~~ (6) Students who have taken and successfully completed high  
38 school courses under the circumstances in subsection ~~((+4))~~ (5) of

1 this section shall not be required to take an additional competency  
2 examination or perform any other additional assignment to receive  
3 credit.

4 ~~((+6+))~~ (7) At the college or university level, five quarter or  
5 three semester hours equals one high school credit.

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