



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 520

January Session, 2001

House Bill No. 5475

House of Representatives, April 30, 2001

The Committee on Education reported through REP. STAPLES of the 96th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS AND THE ARTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 10-221a of the general statutes is repealed and the following
2 is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (a) For classes graduating from 1988 to 2003, inclusive, no local or
4 regional board of education shall permit any student to graduate from
5 high school or grant a diploma to any student who has not
6 satisfactorily completed a minimum of twenty credits, not fewer than
7 four of which shall be in English, not fewer than three in mathematics,
8 not fewer than three in social studies, not fewer than two in science,
9 not fewer than one in the arts or vocational education and not fewer
10 than one in physical education.

11 [(b) Commencing with classes graduating in 2004, and for each
12 graduating class thereafter] (b) For classes graduating from 2004 to

13 2006, inclusive, no local or regional board of education shall permit
14 any student to graduate from high school or grant a diploma to any
15 student who has not satisfactorily completed a minimum of twenty
16 credits, not fewer than four of which shall be in English, not fewer than
17 three in mathematics, not fewer than three in social studies, including
18 at least a one-half credit course on civics and American government,
19 not fewer than two in science, not fewer than one in the arts or
20 vocational education and not fewer than one in physical education.

21 (c) Commencing with classes graduating in 2007, and for each
22 graduating class thereafter, no local or regional board of education
23 shall permit any student to graduate from high school or grant a
24 diploma to any student who has not satisfactorily completed a
25 minimum of twenty credits, not fewer than four of which shall be in
26 English, not fewer than three in mathematics, not fewer than three in
27 social studies, including at least a one-half credit course on civics and
28 American government, not fewer than two in science, not fewer than
29 one in the arts or one-half credit in the arts and one-half credit in arts-
30 related multimedia communications technology and not fewer than
31 one in physical education.

32 [(c)] (d) Any student who presents a certificate from a physician
33 stating that, in the opinion of the physician, participation in physical
34 education is medically contraindicated because of the physical
35 condition of such student, shall be excused from the physical
36 education requirement, provided the credit for physical education may
37 be fulfilled by an elective.

38 [(d)] (e) Determination of eligible credits shall be at the discretion of
39 the local or regional board of education, provided the primary focus of
40 the curriculum of eligible credits corresponds directly to the subject
41 matter of the specified course requirements. The local or regional
42 board of education may permit a student to graduate during a period
43 of expulsion pursuant to section 10-233d, if the board determines the

44 student has satisfactorily completed the necessary credits pursuant to
45 this section. The requirements of this section shall apply to any student
46 requiring special education pursuant to section 10-76a, except when
47 the planning and placement team for such student determines the
48 requirement not to be appropriate. For purposes of this section, a
49 credit shall consist of not less than the equivalent of a forty-minute
50 class period for each school day of a school year except for a credit or
51 part of a credit toward high school graduation earned at an institution
52 accredited by the Department of Higher Education or regionally
53 accredited.

54 [(e)] (f) Only courses taken in grades nine through twelve, inclusive,
55 shall satisfy this graduation requirement, except that a local or regional
56 board of education may grant a student credit (1) toward meeting a
57 specified course requirement upon the successful completion in grade
58 seven or eight of any course, the primary focus of which corresponds
59 directly to the subject matter of a specified course requirement in
60 grades nine to twelve, inclusive; or (2) toward meeting the high school
61 graduation requirement upon the successful completion of coursework
62 at an institution accredited by the Department of Higher Education or
63 regionally accredited. One three-credit semester course, or its
64 equivalent, at such an institution shall equal one-half credit for
65 purposes of this section.

66 [(f)] (g) A local or regional board of education may offer one-half
67 credit in community service which, if satisfactorily completed, shall
68 qualify for high school graduation credit pursuant to this section,
69 provided such community service is supervised by a certified school
70 administrator or teacher and consists of not less than fifty hours of
71 actual service that may be performed at times when school is not
72 regularly in session and not less than ten hours of related classroom
73 instruction. For purposes of this section, community service does not
74 include partisan political activities. The State Board of Education shall
75 assist local and regional boards of education in meeting the

76 requirements of this section.

77 [(g)] (h) A local or regional board of education may award a
78 diploma to a veteran of World War II, pursuant to section 27-103, who
79 left high school prior to graduation in order to serve in the armed
80 forces of the United States and did not receive a diploma as a
81 consequence of such service.

ED *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: Future Cost

Affected Agencies: Department of Education

Municipal Impact: Future Cost, STATE MANDATE

Explanation

State and Municipal Impact:

This bill will result in a future cost to the Department of Education (vocational- technical schools) and to many local and regional school districts. These costs are due to the need for additional staff required to offer students, beginning with the class of 2007, the opportunity to fulfill new credit requirements concerning the arts.

The state's vocational-technical school system will require an additional 12 staff in the future to meet the requirements of the bill. Total cost for these new positions would be approximately \$675,000 including fringe benefits. The FY 01 - 03 biennial budget currently before the General Assembly does not have the flexibility to accommodate the new positions that would be needed beginning in FY 04 therefore the additional funds would be required in that fiscal year.

Many local and regional school districts would also have a future increase in costs due to this bill. It is unlikely that small school districts would have the flexibility in staffing or scheduling to be able

to offer the classes needed to meet this mandate. This will result in the need to hire additional staff. Larger districts will potentially be able to accommodate the bill's mandate through scheduling and staffing changes but even in these cases districts may instead simply increase staff size. The exact cost in any district cannot be determined as the eventual need for additional staff is dependent upon such actions as schedule changes and potential shifting of staff responsibilities, which are unknown.

OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5475

AN ACT CONCERNING THE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS AND THE ARTS.

SUMMARY:

Starting with the class of 2007, this bill requires students to take a minimum of either one credit in the arts or one-half credit in the arts and one-half credit in "arts-related multimedia communications technology" in order to graduate from high school. Currently, students must take at least one credit in either the arts or vocational education in order to graduate.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2001

BACKGROUND

High School Graduation Requirements

By law, students must have at least 20 credits to graduate from high school. At least 14 must be in statutorily specified subjects. The current distribution requirements are:

English	4
Math	3
Social Studies*	3
Science	2
Arts or Vocational Education	1
Physical Education	1

*Including at least one-half credit in civics and American government, starting with the class of 2004.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Report
Yea 25 Nay 7