



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

Committee Bill No. 5257

LCO No. 3240

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:
(ED)

AN ACT CONCERNING A HIGH SCHOOL EXIT EXAMINATION.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) The State Board of Education shall establish an
2 examination that students in the public schools shall be required to
3 pass in order to graduate from high school. The state board may
4 develop such an examination or may designate a state-wide mastery
5 examination pursuant to section 10-14n of the general statutes, as
6 amended by this act, or any other examination it deems appropriate as
7 the high school graduation examination. The state board shall establish
8 the passing score for such examination and shall provide for the
9 administration of such examination to students in the tenth grade and
10 students in the eleventh and twelfth grade who have not achieved a
11 passing score.

12 Sec. 2. Subsection (e) of section 10-14n of the general statutes is
13 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

14 (e) [No] Except as provided in section 1 of this act, no such public
15 school or endowed or incorporated high school or academy may
16 require achievement of a satisfactory score on the state-wide mastery

17 examination, or any subsequent retest on a component of such
18 examination as the sole criterion of promotion or graduation.

19 Sec. 3. Section 10-221a of the general statutes is repealed and the
20 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

21 (a) For classes graduating from 1988 to 2003, inclusive, no local or
22 regional board of education shall permit any student to graduate from
23 high school or grant a diploma to any student who has not
24 satisfactorily completed a minimum of twenty credits, not fewer than
25 four of which shall be in English, not fewer than three in mathematics,
26 not fewer than three in social studies, not fewer than two in science,
27 not fewer than one in the arts or vocational education and not fewer
28 than one in physical education.

29 (b) Commencing with classes graduating in 2004, and for each
30 graduating class thereafter, no local or regional board of education
31 shall permit any student to graduate from high school or grant a
32 diploma to any student who has not satisfactorily completed a
33 minimum of twenty credits, not fewer than four of which shall be in
34 English, not fewer than three in mathematics, not fewer than three in
35 social studies, including at least a one-half credit course on civics and
36 American government, not fewer than two in science, not fewer than
37 one in the arts or vocational education and not fewer than one in
38 physical education.

39 (c) Commencing with classes graduating in 2005, and for each
40 graduating class thereafter, no local or regional board of education
41 shall permit any student to graduate from high school or grant a
42 diploma to any student who fails to achieve a passing score on the
43 state high school graduation examination pursuant to section 1 of this
44 act.

45 [(c)] (d) Any student who presents a certificate from a physician
46 stating that, in the opinion of the physician, participation in physical
47 education is medically contraindicated because of the physical

48 condition of such student, shall be excused from the physical
49 education requirement, provided the credit for physical education may
50 be fulfilled by an elective.

51 [(d)] (e) Determination of eligible credits shall be at the discretion of
52 the local or regional board of education, provided the primary focus of
53 the curriculum of eligible credits corresponds directly to the subject
54 matter of the specified course requirements. The local or regional
55 board of education may permit a student to graduate during a period
56 of expulsion pursuant to section 10-233d, if the board determines the
57 student has satisfactorily completed the necessary credits pursuant to
58 this section. The requirements of this section shall apply to any student
59 requiring special education pursuant to section 10-76a, except when
60 the planning and placement team for such student determines the
61 requirement not to be appropriate. For purposes of this section, a
62 credit shall consist of not less than the equivalent of a forty-minute
63 class period for each school day of a school year except for a credit or
64 part of a credit toward high school graduation earned at an institution
65 accredited by the Department of Higher Education or regionally
66 accredited.

67 [(e)] (f) Only courses taken in grades nine through twelve, inclusive,
68 shall satisfy this graduation requirement, except that a local or regional
69 board of education may grant a student credit (1) toward meeting a
70 specified course requirement upon the successful completion in grade
71 seven or eight of any course, the primary focus of which corresponds
72 directly to the subject matter of a specified course requirement in
73 grades nine to twelve, inclusive; or (2) toward meeting the high school
74 graduation requirement upon the successful completion of coursework
75 at an institution accredited by the Department of Higher Education or
76 regionally accredited. One three-credit semester course, or its
77 equivalent, at such an institution shall equal one-half credit for
78 purposes of this section.

79 [(f)] (g) A local or regional board of education may offer one-half

80 credit in community service which, if satisfactorily completed, shall
81 qualify for high school graduation credit pursuant to this section,
82 provided such community service is supervised by a certified school
83 administrator or teacher and consists of not less than fifty hours of
84 actual service that may be performed at times when school is not
85 regularly in session and not less than ten hours of related classroom
86 instruction. For purposes of this section, community service does not
87 include partisan political activities. The State Board of Education shall
88 assist local and regional boards of education in meeting the
89 requirements of this section.

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

Statement of Purpose:

To provide for the establishment of a high school exit examination. To require students in the graduating class of 2005, and each graduating class thereafter, to achieve a passing score on the examination in order to graduate.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. WARD, 86th Dist.; REP. CAFERO, 142nd Dist.
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