



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

**Committee Bill No. 5475**

LCO No. 3084

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:  
(ED)

**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1 Section 10-221a of the general statutes is repealed and the following  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.

**Statement of Purpose:**

To require students graduating in 2007, and thereafter to have one credit in the arts or one-half credit in the arts and one-half credit in the arts-related multimedia communications technology.

*[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. BOUCHER, 143rd  
                      SEN. ANISKOVICH, 12th  
                      SEN. GAFFEY, 13th  
                      SEN. HANDLEY, 4th  
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