



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 446**

February Session, 2004

Substitute House Bill No. 5578

*House of Representatives, April 5, 2004*

The Committee on Education reported through REP. GIANNAROS of the 21st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING EQUIVALENT CREDITS FOR GRADUATION.**

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

1 Section 1. Subsections (d) and (e) of section 10-221a of the general  
2 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  
3 (*Effective July 1, 2004*):

4 (d) Determination of eligible credits shall be at the discretion of the  
5 local or regional board of education, provided the primary focus of the  
6 curriculum of eligible credits corresponds directly to the subject matter  
7 of the specified course requirements. The local or regional board of  
8 education may permit a student to graduate during a period of  
9 expulsion pursuant to section 10-233d, if the board determines the  
10 student has satisfactorily completed the necessary credits pursuant to  
11 this section. The requirements of this section shall apply to any student  
12 requiring special education pursuant to section 10-76a, as amended,  
13 except when the planning and placement team for such student  
14 determines the requirement not to be appropriate. For purposes of this

15 section:

16 (1) For classes graduating prior to 2009, a credit shall consist of not  
17 less than the equivalent of a forty-minute class period for each school  
18 day of a school year except for a credit or part of a credit toward high  
19 school graduation earned at an institution accredited by the  
20 Department of Higher Education or regionally accredited. One three-  
21 credit semester course, or its equivalent, at such an institution shall  
22 equal one-half credit for purposes of this section.

23 (2) For classes graduating in 2009, and for each graduating class  
24 thereafter, a credit shall consist of (A) not less than one school year of  
25 study, or (B) the equivalent based on the demonstration of  
26 competencies consistent with content standards adopted by the State  
27 Board of Education. Such demonstration of equivalence shall be  
28 described in the plan submitted pursuant to subsection (c) of section  
29 10-223a, as amended by this act, and may include performance on  
30 standardized tests, successful completion of coursework at an  
31 institution accredited by the Department of Higher Education or  
32 regionally accredited, or other activities approved by the local or  
33 regional board of education. A student earning a credit equivalent  
34 pursuant to this subdivision shall have completed the ninth grade or  
35 higher.

36 (e) Only courses taken in grades nine through twelve, inclusive,  
37 shall satisfy this graduation requirement, except that a local or regional  
38 board of education may grant a student credit [(1)] toward meeting a  
39 specified course requirement upon the successful completion in grade  
40 seven or eight of any course, the primary focus of which corresponds  
41 directly to the subject matter of a specified course requirement in  
42 grades nine to twelve, inclusive. [; or (2) toward meeting the high  
43 school graduation requirement upon the successful completion of  
44 coursework at an institution accredited by the Department of Higher  
45 Education or regionally accredited. One three-credit semester course,  
46 or its equivalent, at such an institution shall equal one-half credit for  
47 purposes of this section.]

48       Sec. 2. Section 10-223a of the general statutes is amended by adding  
49 subsection (c) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2004*):

50       (NEW) (c) On or before July 1, 2005, each local and regional board of  
51 education shall adopt and submit to the Department of Education a  
52 plan for the awarding of graduation credit equivalents for classes  
53 graduating in 2009, and for each graduating class thereafter. Such plan  
54 shall describe how students shall be notified of the opportunity to  
55 obtain such credit equivalents and detail the procedure by which  
56 students may obtain credit equivalents.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2004</i>
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2004</i>

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

Made change to section 1 (d) (1) to clarify that existing language applies to classes graduating prior to 2009.

**ED**       *Joint Favorable Subst.*

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:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 05 \$	FY 06 \$
Education, Dept.	GF - None	None	None

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:**

Municipalities	Effect	FY 05 \$	FY 06 \$
Local and Regional School Districts	STATE MANDATE - Cost	Minimal	None

**Explanation**

This bill results in a minimal cost to local and regional school districts as section 2 of the bill requires the development of a report on how the district would meet the requirements of section 1 of the bill and additionally requires that the report be submitted to the State Department of Education. The costs would be minimal and likely less than \$1,000. These costs would include the taking of meeting minutes; paperwork costs of the report itself and the postage to send the report to the State Department of Education. Since the bill does not require the State Department of Education to do anything with the report once they receive it there is no fiscal impact to the state.

**OLR Bill Analysis**

sHB 5578

**AN ACT CONCERNING EQUIVALENT CREDITS FOR GRADUATION****SUMMARY:**

This bill expands the definition of a high school credit for classes graduating in 2009 and thereafter. Current law, which the bill maintains for classes graduating through 2008, (1) defines "a credit" as at least the equivalent of a 40-minute class period for each day of the school year, except for a credit or part of a credit toward high school graduation earned at a college or university and (2) provides that a three-credit semester course, or its equivalent, earned at a higher education institution equals one-half credit toward high school graduation.

For classes graduating in 2009 and thereafter, the bill defines a credit as (1) at least one school year of study or (2) the equivalent based on a student's demonstration of competencies consistent with the State Board of Education's content standards. The bill allows such a demonstration to include performance on standardized tests, successful completion of college or university coursework, or other activities a local school board approves. It requires students to at least complete the 9<sup>th</sup> grade before they may earn equivalent credits toward graduation.

The bill requires each school board to develop a plan for awarding graduation credit equivalents for the graduating classes of 2009 and thereafter. It requires the plan to (1) explain how students will be notified of the opportunity to earn the credit equivalents and (2) detail the procedure for obtaining them. Boards must adopt and submit their plans to the State Department of Education by July 1, 2005.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2004

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute  
Yea 26 Nay 0