



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 5578**

February Session, 2004

\* \_\_\_\_\_ HB05578APP \_\_\_\_\_ 042004 \_\_\_\_\_ \*

**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2 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof  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>

**ED**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

**APP**     *Joint Favorable*