



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

Raised Bill No. 945

LCO No. 3455

03455 _____ ED_

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:
(ED)

AN ACT CONCERNING WORLD LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS.

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

1 Section 1. Section 10-221a of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2009*):

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] For classes graduating from 2004 to 2012,
13 inclusive, no local or regional board of education shall permit any
14 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 2013, 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-two credits, not fewer than four of which shall be
26 in English, not fewer than three in mathematics, not fewer than three
27 in social studies, including at least a one-half credit course on civics
28 and American government, not fewer than two in science, not fewer
29 than two in a world language, not fewer than one in the arts or
30 vocational education and not fewer than one in physical education.

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

37 [(d)] (e) Determination of eligible credits shall be at the discretion of
38 the local or regional board of education, provided the primary focus of
39 the curriculum of eligible credits corresponds directly to the subject
40 matter of the specified course requirements. The local or regional
41 board of education may permit a student to graduate during a period
42 of expulsion pursuant to section 10-233d, if the board determines the
43 student has satisfactorily completed the necessary credits pursuant to
44 this section. The requirements of this section shall apply to any student
45 requiring special education pursuant to section 10-76a, except when
46 the planning and placement team for such student determines the
47 requirement not to be appropriate. For purposes of this section, a
48 credit shall consist of not less than the equivalent of a forty-minute

49 class period for each school day of a school year except for a credit or
50 part of a credit toward high school graduation earned at an institution
51 accredited by the Department of Higher Education or regionally
52 accredited.

53 [(e)] (f) Only courses taken in grades nine through twelve, inclusive,
54 shall satisfy this graduation requirement, except that a local or regional
55 board of education may grant a student credit (1) toward meeting a
56 specified course requirement upon the successful completion in grade
57 seven or eight of any course, the primary focus of which corresponds
58 directly to the subject matter of a specified course requirement in
59 grades nine to twelve, inclusive; (2) toward meeting the high school
60 graduation requirement upon completion of a world language course
61 offered privately through a nonprofit provider, provided such student
62 achieves a passing grade on an examination prescribed, within
63 available appropriations, by the Commissioner of Education and such
64 credits do not exceed four; (3) toward meeting the high school
65 graduation requirement upon achievement of a passing grade on a
66 subject area proficiency examination identified and approved, within
67 available appropriations, by the Commissioner of Education,
68 regardless of the number of hours the student spent in a public school
69 classroom learning such subject matter; or (4) toward meeting the high
70 school graduation requirement upon the successful completion of
71 coursework at an institution accredited by the Department of Higher
72 Education or regionally accredited. One three-credit semester course,
73 or its equivalent, at such an institution shall equal one-half credit for
74 purposes of this section.

75 [(f)] (g) A local or regional board of education may offer one-half
76 credit in community service which, if satisfactorily completed, shall
77 qualify for high school graduation credit pursuant to this section,
78 provided such community service is supervised by a certified school
79 administrator or teacher and consists of not less than fifty hours of
80 actual service that may be performed at times when school is not
81 regularly in session and not less than ten hours of related classroom

82 instruction. For purposes of this section, community service does not
83 include partisan political activities. The State Board of Education shall
84 assist local and regional boards of education in meeting the
85 requirements of this section.

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

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	10-221a

Statement of Purpose:

To require high school students to complete a minimum of two years of world language study prior to graduation.

[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.]