



WORKING DRAFT

General Assembly

Raised Bill No. 5165

February Session, 2010

LCO No. 839

00839_____PRI

Referred to Committee on Program Review and Investigations

Introduced by:
(PRI)

AN ACT CONCERNING HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION 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 Section 10-221a of the general statutes is repealed and the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, 2010*):

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 2016,
13 inclusive, and, if the Department of Education is unable to secure
14 federal funding in accordance with the provisions of subsection (d) of
15 this section, for classes graduating in 2017 and 2018, no local or

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16 regional board of education shall permit any student to graduate from
17 high school or grant a diploma to any student who has not
18 satisfactorily completed a minimum of twenty credits, not fewer than
19 four of which shall be in English, not fewer than three in mathematics,
20 not fewer than three in social studies, including at least a one-half
21 credit course on civics and American government, not fewer than two
22 in science, not fewer than one in the arts or vocational education and
23 not fewer than one in physical education.

24 (c) Commencing with classes graduating in 2017 and 2018, provided
25 the Department of Education secures federal funding in accordance
26 with the provisions of subsection (d) of this section, and for the class of
27 2019 and for each graduating class thereafter, no local or regional
28 board of education shall permit any student to graduate from high
29 school or grant a diploma to any student who has not satisfactorily
30 completed a minimum of twenty-five credits, including not fewer than:
31 (1) Nine credits in the humanities, including not fewer than (A) four
32 credits in English, including composition; (B) three credits in social
33 studies, including at least one credit in American history and at least
34 one-half credit in civics and American government; (C) one credit in
35 fine arts; and (D) one credit in a humanities elective; (2) eight credits in
36 science, technology, engineering and mathematics, including not fewer
37 than (A) four credits in mathematics, including algebra I, geometry,
38 and algebra II or statistics and probability; (B) three credits in science,
39 including at least one credit in life science and at least one credit in
40 physical science; and (C) one credit in a science, technology,
41 engineering and mathematics elective; (3) three and one-half credits in
42 career and life skills, including not fewer than (A) one credit in
43 physical education; (B) one-half credit in comprehensive health
44 education; and (C) two credits in career and life skills electives, such as
45 career and technical education, English as a second language,
46 community service, personal finance, public speaking and nutrition
47 and physical activity; (4) two credits in world languages, subject to the
48 provisions of subsection (g) of this section; and (5) a one credit senior
49 demonstration project. Local and regional boards of education shall

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50 provide alternate means for a student to complete any high school
51 graduation requirement if such student is unable to satisfactorily
52 complete any of the required courses, and allow students to attend a
53 public institution of higher education through participation in a dual
54 enrollment program that is funded by an education equalization aid
55 grant pursuant to section 10-262h.

56 (d) Not later than July 1, 2010, the Department of Education shall
57 apply for federal economic stimulus funds available pursuant to the
58 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, P.L. 111-5, or any
59 other federal grant program, in an amount, as determined by the
60 Commissioner of Education, that is at least sufficient to implement the
61 changes to the requirements for a student to be permitted to graduate
62 from high school or to be granted a diploma for classes graduating in
63 2017 and 2018, as set forth in the provisions of subsection (c) of this
64 section. If the department is unable to secure such funding under said
65 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, or any other federal
66 grant program, the provisions of subsection (b) of this section shall
67 apply to the classes graduating from 2004 to 2018, inclusive, and the
68 provisions of subsection (c) of this section shall apply to classes
69 graduating in 2019 and for each graduating class thereafter.

70 ~~[(c)]~~ (e) Any student who presents a certificate from a physician
71 stating that, in the opinion of the physician, participation in physical
72 education is medically contraindicated because of the physical
73 condition of such student, shall be excused from the physical
74 education requirement, provided the credit for physical education may
75 be fulfilled by an elective.

76 ~~[(d)]~~ (f) Determination of eligible credits shall be at the discretion of
77 the local or regional board of education, provided the primary focus of
78 the curriculum of eligible credits corresponds directly to the subject
79 matter of the specified course requirements. The local or regional
80 board of education may permit a student to graduate during a period
81 of expulsion pursuant to section 10-233d, if the board determines the

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82 student has satisfactorily completed the necessary credits pursuant to
83 this section. The requirements of this section shall apply to any student
84 requiring special education pursuant to section 10-76a, except when
85 the planning and placement team for such student determines the
86 requirement not to be appropriate. For purposes of this section, a
87 credit shall consist of not less than the equivalent of a forty-minute
88 class period for each school day of a school year except for a credit or
89 part of a credit toward high school graduation earned at an institution
90 accredited by the Department of Higher Education or regionally
91 accredited.

92 [(e)] (g) Only courses taken in grades nine through twelve,
93 inclusive, shall satisfy this graduation requirement, except that a local
94 or regional board of education may grant a student credit (1) toward
95 meeting a specified course requirement upon the successful
96 completion in grade seven or eight of any course, the primary focus of
97 which corresponds directly to the subject matter of a specified course
98 requirement in grades nine to twelve, inclusive; (2) toward meeting the
99 high school graduation requirement upon the successful completion of
100 a world language course (A) in grade six, seven or eight, (B) through
101 on-line coursework, or (C) offered privately through a nonprofit
102 provider, provided such student achieves a passing grade on an
103 examination prescribed, within available appropriations, by the
104 Commissioner of Education and such credits do not exceed four; (3)
105 toward meeting the high school graduation requirement upon
106 achievement of a passing grade on a subject area proficiency
107 examination identified and approved, within available appropriations,
108 by the Commissioner of Education, regardless of the number of hours
109 the student spent in a public school classroom learning such subject
110 matter; or (4) toward meeting the high school graduation requirement
111 upon the successful completion of coursework at an institution
112 accredited by the Department of Higher Education or regionally
113 accredited. One three-credit semester course, or its equivalent, at such
114 an institution shall equal one-half credit for purposes of this section.

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115 [(f)] (h) A local or regional board of education may offer one-half
116 credit in community service which, if satisfactorily completed, shall
117 qualify for high school graduation credit pursuant to this section,
118 provided such community service is supervised by a certified school
119 administrator or teacher and consists of not less than fifty hours of
120 actual service that may be performed at times when school is not
121 regularly in session and not less than ten hours of related classroom
122 instruction. For purposes of this section, community service does not
123 include partisan political activities. The State Board of Education shall
124 assist local and regional boards of education in meeting the
125 requirements of this section.

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

131 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2010*) For the fiscal year ending June
132 30, 2012, and each ending fiscal year thereafter, the Department of
133 Education shall provide grants to local and regional school districts to
134 implement the provisions of subsection (c) of section 10-221a of the
135 general statutes, as amended by this act.

136 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 10-69 of the general statutes is
137 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
138 *1, 2010*):

139 (a) Each local and regional board of education shall establish and
140 maintain a program of adult classes or shall provide for participation
141 in a program of adult classes for its adult residents through
142 cooperative arrangements with one or more other boards of education,
143 one or more cooperating eligible entities or a regional educational
144 service center pursuant to the provisions of section 10-66a. Such board
145 of education may admit an adult to any public elementary or
146 secondary school. [No] A person sixteen years of age or older and

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147 enrolled in a full-time program of study in any local or regional school
148 district may enroll in [an] not more than two adult education [activity
149 without] classes or activities in a school year. Such enrollment shall be
150 with the approval of the school principal of the school in which such
151 person is enrolled in such full-time program. High school graduation
152 credit awarded for an adult education class may only be awarded in
153 proportion to the instructional hours required in section 10-221a, as
154 amended by this act, and shall not exceed one-half high school credit
155 for each adult education credit. A student may not be awarded, for
156 purposes of meeting graduation requirements, more than two credits
157 earned through adult education. Instruction: (1) Shall be provided in
158 Americanization and United States citizenship, English for adults with
159 limited English proficiency and elementary and secondary school
160 completion programs or classes; and (2) may be provided in (A) any
161 subject provided by the elementary and secondary schools of such
162 school district, including vocational education, (B) adult literacy, (C)
163 parenting skills, and (D) any other subject or activity.

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| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
| Section 1 | <i>July 1, 2010</i> | 10-221a |
| Sec. 2 | <i>July 1, 2010</i> | New section |
| Sec. 3 | <i>July 1, 2010</i> | 10-69(a) |

Statement of Purpose:

To implement the recommendations of the Legislative Program Review and Investigations committee concerning alignment of post-secondary education and employment.

[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.]