



General Assembly

February Session, 2010

Raised Bill No. 5489

LCO No. 2110

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Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:
(ED)

AN ACT CONCERNING SECONDARY SCHOOL REFORM.

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 Section 10-221a of the general statutes is repealed and the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
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 probability and statistics; (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) four credits in career and life
42 skills, including not fewer than (A) one credit in physical education;
43 (B) one credit in comprehensive health education, subject to the
44 provisions of subsection (g) of this section; and (C) two credits in
45 career and life skills electives, such as career and technical education,
46 English as a second language, community service, personal finance,
47 public speaking and nutrition and physical activity; (4) two credits in
48 world languages, subject to the provisions of subsection (g) of this
49 section; and (5) a one credit senior demonstration project. Local and
50 regional boards of education shall provide alternate means for a

51 student to complete any high school graduation requirement if such
52 student is unable to satisfactorily complete any of the required courses,
53 and allow students to attend a public institution of higher education
54 pursuant to subdivision (5) of subsection (g) of this section.

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

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

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

83 requiring special education pursuant to section 10-76a, except when
84 the planning and placement team for such student determines the
85 requirement not to be appropriate. For purposes of this section, a
86 credit shall consist of not less than the equivalent of a forty-minute
87 class period for each school day of a school year except for a credit or
88 part of a credit toward high school graduation earned (1) at an
89 institution accredited by the Department of Higher Education or
90 regionally accredited, or (2) through on-line coursework that is in
91 accordance with a policy adopted pursuant to subsection (g) of this
92 section.

93 [(e)] (g) Only courses taken in grades nine through twelve,
94 inclusive, shall satisfy this graduation requirement, except that a local
95 or regional board of education may grant a student credit (1) toward
96 meeting a specified course requirement upon the successful
97 completion in grade seven or eight of any course, the primary focus of
98 which corresponds directly to the subject matter of a specified course
99 requirement in grades nine to twelve, inclusive; (2) toward meeting the
100 high school graduation requirement upon the successful completion of
101 a world language course (A) in grade six, seven or eight, (B) through
102 on-line coursework, or (C) offered privately through a nonprofit
103 provider, provided such student achieves a passing grade on an
104 examination prescribed, within available appropriations, by the
105 Commissioner of Education and such credits do not exceed four; (3)
106 toward meeting the high school graduation requirement upon
107 achievement of a passing grade on a subject area proficiency
108 examination identified and approved, within available appropriations,
109 by the Commissioner of Education, regardless of the number of hours
110 the student spent in a public school classroom learning such subject
111 matter; [or] (4) toward meeting the high school graduation
112 requirement upon completion of a health education course in grades
113 six, seven or eight, provided such credits do not exceed one-half; (5)
114 toward meeting the high school graduation requirement upon the
115 successful completion of coursework at an institution accredited by the
116 Department of Higher Education or regionally accredited. One three-

117 credit semester course, or its equivalent, at such an institution shall
118 equal one-half credit for purposes of this section; or (6) toward meeting
119 the high school graduation requirement upon the successful
120 completion of on-line coursework provided the local or regional board
121 of education has adopted a policy in accordance with this subdivision
122 for the granting of credit for on-line coursework. Such a policy shall
123 ensure, at a minimum, that (A) the workload required by the on-line
124 course is equivalent to that of a similar course taught in a traditional
125 classroom setting; (B) the content is rigorous and aligned with
126 curriculum guidelines approved by the State Board of Education,
127 where appropriate; (C) the course engages students and has interactive
128 components, which may include, but are not limited to, required
129 interactions between students and their teachers, participation in on-
130 line demonstrations, discussion boards or virtual labs; and (D) the
131 courses are (i) taught by teachers who are certified in the state or
132 another state and have received training on teaching in an on-line
133 environment, or (ii) offered by institutions of higher education that are
134 accredited by the Department of Higher Education or regionally
135 accredited.

136 [(f)] (h) A local or regional board of education may offer one-half
137 credit in community service which, if satisfactorily completed, shall
138 qualify for high school graduation credit pursuant to this section,
139 provided such community service is supervised by a certified school
140 administrator or teacher and consists of not less than fifty hours of
141 actual service that may be performed at times when school is not
142 regularly in session and not less than ten hours of related classroom
143 instruction. For purposes of this section, community service does not
144 include partisan political activities. The State Board of Education shall
145 assist local and regional boards of education in meeting the
146 requirements of this section.

147 [(g)] (i) A local or regional board of education may award a diploma
148 to a veteran of World War II, pursuant to section 27-103, who left high
149 school prior to graduation in order to serve in the armed forces of the

150 United States and did not receive a diploma as a consequence of such
151 service.

152 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2010*) For the fiscal year ending June
153 30, 2012, and each ending fiscal year thereafter, the Department of
154 Education shall provide grants to local and regional school districts to
155 implement the provisions of subsection (c) of section 10-221a of the
156 general statutes, as amended by this act.

157 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 10-69 of the general statutes is
158 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
159 *1, 2010*):

160 (a) Each local and regional board of education shall establish and
161 maintain a program of adult classes or shall provide for participation
162 in a program of adult classes for its adult residents through
163 cooperative arrangements with one or more other boards of education,
164 one or more cooperating eligible entities or a regional educational
165 service center pursuant to the provisions of section 10-66a. Such board
166 of education may admit an adult to any public elementary or
167 secondary school. [No] A person sixteen years of age or older and
168 enrolled in a full-time program of study in any local or regional school
169 district may enroll in [an] not more than two adult education [activity
170 without] classes or activities in a school year. Such enrollment shall be
171 with the approval of the school principal of the school in which such
172 person is enrolled in such full-time program. High school graduation
173 credit awarded for an adult education class may only be awarded in
174 proportion to the instructional hours required in section 10-221a, as
175 amended by this act, and shall not exceed one-half high school credit
176 for each adult education credit. A student may not be awarded, for
177 purposes of meeting graduation requirements, more than two credits
178 earned through adult education. Instruction: (1) Shall be provided in
179 Americanization and United States citizenship, English for adults with
180 limited English proficiency and elementary and secondary school
181 completion programs or classes; and (2) may be provided in (A) any

182 subject provided by the elementary and secondary schools of such
183 school district, including vocational education, (B) adult literacy, (C)
184 parenting skills, and (D) any other subject or activity.

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.]