



General Assembly

February Session, 2010

**Raised Bill No. 279**

LCO No. 1389

\*01389\_\_\_\_\_ED\_\*

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:  
(ED)

**AN ACT CONCERNING FOREIGN LANGUAGES TAUGHT IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.**

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 Section 10-221a of the general statutes is repealed and the  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, no local or regional board of education  
13 shall permit any student to graduate from high school or grant a  
14 diploma to any student who has not satisfactorily completed a  
15 minimum of twenty credits, not fewer than four of which shall be in

16 English, not fewer than three in mathematics, not fewer than three in  
17 social studies, including at least a one-half credit course [on] in civics  
18 and American government, not fewer than two in science, not fewer  
19 than one in the arts or vocational education and not fewer than one in  
20 physical education.

21 (c) Commencing with classes graduating in 2016, 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 in civics and  
28 American government, not fewer than two in science, not fewer than  
29 two in world languages, subject to the provisions of subsection (f) of  
30 this section, not fewer than one in the arts or vocational education and  
31 not fewer than one in physical education.

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

38 [(d)] (e) Determination of eligible credits shall be at the discretion of  
39 the local or regional board of education, provided the primary focus of  
40 the curriculum of eligible credits corresponds directly to the subject  
41 matter of the specified course requirements. The local or regional  
42 board of education may permit a student to graduate during a period  
43 of expulsion pursuant to section 10-233d, if the board determines the  
44 student has satisfactorily completed the necessary credits pursuant to  
45 this section. The requirements of this section shall apply to any student  
46 requiring special education pursuant to section 10-76a, except when  
47 the planning and placement team for such student determines the

48 requirement not to be appropriate. For purposes of this section, a  
49 credit shall consist of not less than the equivalent of a forty-minute  
50 class period for each school day of a school year except for a credit or  
51 part of a credit toward high school graduation earned at an institution  
52 accredited by the Department of Higher Education or regionally  
53 accredited.

54 [(e)] (f) Only courses taken in grades nine through twelve, inclusive,  
55 shall satisfy this graduation requirement, except that a local or regional  
56 board of education may grant a student credit (1) toward meeting a  
57 specified course requirement upon the successful completion in grade  
58 seven or eight of any course, the primary focus of which corresponds  
59 directly to the subject matter of a specified course requirement in  
60 grades nine to twelve, inclusive; (2) toward meeting the high school  
61 graduation requirement upon the successful completion of a world  
62 language course (A) in grade six, seven or eight, (B) through on-line  
63 coursework, or (C) offered privately through a nonprofit provider,  
64 provided such student achieves a passing grade on an examination  
65 prescribed, within available appropriations, by the Commissioner of  
66 Education and [such credits do not exceed four] the board of education  
67 grants no more than four credits pursuant to this subdivision; (3)  
68 toward meeting the high school graduation requirement upon  
69 achievement of a passing grade on a subject area proficiency  
70 examination identified and approved, within available appropriations,  
71 by the Commissioner of Education, regardless of the number of hours  
72 the student spent in a public school classroom learning such subject  
73 matter; or (4) toward meeting the high school graduation requirement  
74 upon the successful completion of coursework at an institution  
75 accredited by the Department of Higher Education or regionally  
76 accredited. One three-credit semester course, or its equivalent, at such  
77 an institution shall equal a one-half credit for purposes of this section.

78 [(f)] (g) A local or regional board of education may offer a one-half  
79 credit in community service which, if satisfactorily completed, shall  
80 qualify for high school graduation credit pursuant to this section,

81 provided such community service is supervised by a certified school  
82 administrator or teacher and consists of not less than fifty hours of  
83 actual service that may be performed at times when school is not  
84 regularly in session and not less than ten hours of related classroom  
85 instruction. For purposes of this section, community service does not  
86 include partisan political activities. The State Board of Education shall  
87 assist local and regional boards of education in meeting the  
88 requirements of this section.

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

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2010</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.]*