

The Florida Senate
HOUSE MESSAGE SUMMARY

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Education Pre-K - 12 Committee

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BILL: CS/SB 1908

INTRODUCER: Education Pre-K -- 12 Committee, and Senators Gaetz, Lynn, and Wise

SUBJECT: High School Grading

DATE: April 30, 2008

I. Amendments Contained in Message:

House Amendment 1 - 981193 (body and title)

II. Summary of Amendments Contained in Message:

House Amendment 1 - 981193 differs from CS/SB 1908 in the following ways:

The amendment adds the provisions of CS/HB 7045 relating to standards and school grading, as amended, which passed the Senate. In particular, the amendment:

- Provides for a revision of the Sunshine State Standards as the Next Generation Standards;
- Authorizes the Department of Education to eliminate obsolete assessments for graduation and replace them with correlated scores on newer assessments to reduce costs;
- Revises the Teachers Lead Stipend Program to authorize a district to distribute program funds to teachers by check, debit card, or other authorized means;
- Conforms school cafeteria sanitation and safety reporting requirements to current law;
- Includes certain practical arts courses to satisfy the arts requirements for high school graduation;
- Creates a designation on the high school diploma to reflect achievement in a student's emphasis of study, including advanced placement and other programs;]
- Clarifies articulation between postsecondary institutions and school districts in assigning grades in dual enrollment courses;
- Authorizes the Commissioner of Education to develop or adopt end-of-course examinations under certain conditions;
- Requires the Commissioner to set state assessment schedules to provide for the latest possible test administration and earliest return of test scores;
- Prohibits school districts from suspending regular instruction in order to prepare for state assessments under certain circumstances; and
- Revises provisions for school grades for students in alternative schools so that the student's scores would be assigned to a graded school and provides penalties for non-compliance.

The amendment contains certain provisions that are not reflected in the Senate amendment to CS/HB 7045, including the following:

- Requires language arts standards to identify literary genres; and
- Requires high schools to administer college readiness assessments to lower performing students and provide remediation before high school graduation as a collaborative effort between community colleges and school districts;
- Provides that passing scores on the college readiness assessments are good for two years to exempt the student from remediation; and
- Adds provisions relating to certification options for teachers for certain foreign language subjects, which is the substance of a bill still in committee (CS/CS/SB 1062).