

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

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

BILL: SB 756

INTRODUCER: Senator Wise

SUBJECT: Career Education

DATE: January 23, 2012 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Carrouth	deMarsh-Mathues	ED	Pre-meeting
2.	_____	_____	CM	_____
3.	_____	_____	BC	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

The bill establishes a career technical high school diploma and specifies academic requirements necessary to attain a career diploma. Under the bill, a parent or guardian must sign a document confirming his or her understanding of the diploma requirements. A student who considers the career diploma option must be advised of postsecondary admissions and state scholarship requirements. For middle school promotion, a student must complete one course in career and education planning that includes career exploration aligned to Florida’s Career Clusters.

The bill also establishes provisions for students with disabilities to earn a career high school diploma. These provisions include, in part, district modification of basic courses, grade forgiveness policies, and additional instructional time.

This bill substantially amends sections 1002.321, 1002.33, 1002.45, 1003.03, 1003.413, 1003.4156, 1003.428, 1003.438, 1003.493, 1003.4935, and 1008.22, and creates section 1003.4287 of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

The current standard high school diploma requirement of 24 credits are as follows:¹

Sixteen core curriculum credits:

- Four credits in English, with major concentration in composition, reading for information, and literature.
- Four credits in mathematics, one of which must be Algebra I, a series of courses equivalent to Algebra I, or a higher-level mathematics course.² Beginning with students entering grade nine in

¹ s. 1003.428, F.S.

the 2010-2011 school year, in addition to the Algebra I credit requirement, one of the four credits in mathematics must be geometry or a series of courses equivalent to geometry. Beginning with students entering grade nine in the 2012-2013 school year, in addition to the Algebra I and geometry credit requirements, one of the four credits in mathematics must be Algebra II or a series of courses equivalent to Algebra II.

- Three credits in science, two of which must have a laboratory component. Beginning with students entering grade nine in the 2011-2012 school year, one of the three credits in science must be Biology I or a series of courses equivalent to Biology I.³ Beginning with students entering grade nine in the 2013-2014 school year, one of the three credits must be Biology I or a series of courses equivalent to Biology I, one credit must be chemistry or physics or a series of courses equivalent to chemistry or physics, and one credit must be an equally rigorous course, as determined by the State Board of Education.
- Three credits in social studies as follows: one credit in United States history; one credit in world history; one-half credit in economics; and one-half credit in United States government.
- One credit in fine or performing arts, speech and debate, or a practical arts course.
- One credit in physical education to include integration of health.⁴
- Eight credits in electives.

Florida students also have the option to earn a Standard Diploma with FCAT Waiver, a Special Diploma, a Certificate of Completion,⁵ or the high school equivalency diploma.⁶

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill establishes a career technical high school diploma and specifies academic requirements necessary to attain the diploma. Academic requirements for the career diploma differ from the standard high school diploma. Under the bill, the Algebra II and chemistry or physics courses must be applied courses; however applied Algebra II, chemistry, and physics courses would need to be developed and aligned to each career or technical course of study for which students are enrolled. Although current law establishes

² Beginning with students entering grade nine in the 2010-2011 school year, the end-of-course assessment requirements under s. 1008.22(3)(c)2.a.(I), F.S., must be met in order for a student to earn the required credit in Algebra I. Beginning with students entering grade nine in the 2011-2012 school year, the end-of-course assessment requirements under s. 1008.22(3)(c)2.a.(I), F.S., must be met in order for a student to earn the required credit in geometry.

³ Beginning with students entering grade nine in the 2011-2012 school year, the end-of-course assessment requirements under s. 1008.22(3)(c)2.a.(II), F.S., must be met in order for a student to earn the required credit in Biology I.

⁴ Participation in an interscholastic sport at the junior varsity or varsity level for two full seasons shall satisfy the one-credit requirement in physical education if the student passes a competency test on personal fitness with a score of "C" or better. The competency test on personal fitness must be developed by the Department of Education. A district school board may not require that the one credit in physical education be taken during the ninth-grade year. Completion of one semester with a grade of "C" or better in a marching band class, in a physical activity class that requires participation in marching band activities as an extracurricular activity, or in a dance class shall satisfy one-half credit in physical education or one-half credit in performing arts. This credit may not be used to satisfy the personal fitness requirement or the requirement for adaptive physical education under an individual education plan (IEP) or 504 plan. Completion of two years in a Reserve Officer Training Corps class, a significant component of which is drills, shall satisfy the one-credit requirement in physical education and the one-credit requirement in performing arts. This credit may not be used to satisfy the personal fitness requirement or the requirement for adaptive physical education under an IEP or 504 plan.

⁵ See www.fldoe.org/ese/pdf/hs_options_ese.pdf.

⁶ See <http://www.fldoe.org/faq/default.asp?Dept=203&ID=694#Q694>.

that courses required for high school graduation may be earned through applied, integrated, and combined courses, to date, no courses have been approved and included in the Course Code Directory.⁷

Under the bill, a parent or guardian must sign a document confirming his or her understanding of the diploma requirements. Furthermore, a student who considers the career diploma option must be advised of postsecondary admissions and scholarship requirements as the career diploma may compromise a student's ability to earn certain scholarships or meet entrance requirements to a state university.⁸

The bill also establishes provisions for students with disabilities to earn a career high school diploma. These provisions include, in part, district modification of basic courses, grade forgiveness policies, and additional instructional time.

Under the bill, students may earn up to a maximum of seven credits in a career or technical training program. A number of existing Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs are less than seven credits.⁹ If a student were enrolled in a particular CTE program and the program did not have seven credits, it is unclear whether the student would be required to take credits that were not within his or her CTE program to meet the required seven credits.¹⁰ Furthermore, many industry certifications currently being earned by secondary students require more than seven courses. As industry certifications are an important aspect of CTE programs, it would seem that the earning of an applicable industry certification should be a part of a career diploma requirement.

Other Provisions

The bill also establishes that the career and education planning course required by middle grades students include exploration aligned to Florida's Career Clusters. This provision is already included through Florida CHOICES, an information delivery system available at no cost to school districts.¹¹

Also, students who are required to take more than one remedial mathematics or reading course may not have sufficient time within their class schedule to accommodate all academic requirements for attainment of the career diploma.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

⁷ Based on telephonic communication with DOE, January 19, 2012, approval of integrated, applied, and combined courses will be delayed pending adoption of common core standards in mathematics and science.

⁸ *Florida's Guide to Public High School Graduation*, available at: www.fldoe.org/bii/studentpro/pdf/HSbrochure.pdf

⁹ DOE Agency Bill analysis for House Bill 111 (Similar to SB 756), on file with the Senate Committee on Pre-K – 12 Education.

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ Currently, the DOE middle school career and education planning course competencies include a career research component organized by occupational career clusters that includes identification of career opportunities within each cluster, employment outlook, and education/training requirements. The Career and Education Planning course must include career exploration using CHOICES or a comparable cost-effective program. Florida's free career information delivery system, Florida Choices, is organized by career cluster and students are introduced to careers within clusters based on a personalized interest inventory. See s. 1003.4156 (1)(a)5., F.S.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

Section 12 of the bill references passing of the Mathematics FCAT. Due to the introduction of the end-of-course assessment for Algebra I, beginning in the 2011-12 school year, high school students are no longer required to pass the Mathematics FCAT in order to earn a standard high school diploma.

It is unclear how the end-of-course exams will be calculated into a student's grade, as some end-of-course exams will count towards 30 percent of their grade, while others are pass/fail to determine credit for the course.¹²

The career technical high school diploma references "Algebra I, a series of courses equivalent to Algebra I, or a higher-level mathematics course" as a graduation requirement; however, in 2010-2011, the Algebra I or equivalent credit became a requirement, and cannot be substituted by a higher-level mathematics course. The "higher-level mathematics course" referenced as part of the standard diploma requirement is not applicable to any students entering grade 9 in 2012-2013 or later.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

¹² DOE agency draft bill analysis, November 24, 2011, on file with the Senate Committee on Pre-K – 12 Education.

B. Amendments:

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.
