

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DPI 1/9/2012

LRB Number	11-3603/1	Introduction Number	AB-0447	Estimate Type	Original
Description Authorizing a school board to grant a vocational high school diploma					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Under current law, a school board may not grant a high school diploma to any pupil unless the pupil has earned at least 4 credits of English, 3 credits of social studies, 2 credits of science, 2 credits of mathematics, 1.5 credits of physical education, and 0.5 credits of health education.

This bill authorizes a school board to grant a vocational high school diploma to a pupil who has earned the academic credits specified above, has earned the same total number of credits the school board requires of other pupils for high school graduation, and has completed a vocational education program, established by the school board, in one or more subjects.

The bill authorizes a school board, in establishing a vocational education program, to incorporate standards for industry-wide certifications. The school board must indicate on a pupil's vocational high school diploma the certifications attained by the pupil.

The bill directs the department to annually provide each school board that offers high school grades a list of industry certifications.

Under current law a school board may grant a high school diploma to a pupil who has not satisfied graduation requirements if the pupil was involved in an alternative education program and the school board determines that the pupil has demonstrated a level of proficiency in the subject areas required for graduation equivalent to that which he or she would have attained if they had satisfied graduation requirements.

State: The department is required to annually provide to each school board operating high school grades a list of industry-recognized certifications. The cost to compile and distribute this list is indeterminate. It may be possible to absorb any costs within the department's budget.

Local: School boards that choose to offer a vocational high school diploma may incorporate standards for industry-recognized certifications and indicate on a pupil's vocational high school diploma the certifications attained by the pupil. It is unknown how many school boards will choose to offer a vocational high school diploma and of those, how many will choose to incorporate standards for industry-recognized certifications. The cost to school districts is indeterminate.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications