

HOUSE BILL No. 4712

May 9, 2013, Introduced by Reps. Irwin and Zemke and referred to the Committee on Education.

A bill to amend 1976 PA 451, entitled "The revised school code," by amending section 1278a (MCL 380.1278a), as amended by 2009 PA 205.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1278a. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section
2 or section 1278b, beginning with pupils entering grade 8 in 2006,
3 the board of a school district or board of directors of a public
4 school academy shall not award a high school diploma to a pupil
5 unless the pupil meets all of the following:

6 (a) Has successfully completed all of the following credit
7 requirements of the Michigan merit standard before graduating from
8 high school:

9 (i) At least 4 credits in mathematics that are aligned with

1 subject area content expectations developed by the department and
2 approved by the state board under section 1278b, including
3 completion of at least algebra I, geometry, and algebra II, or an
4 integrated sequence of this course content that consists of 3
5 credits, and an additional mathematics credit, such as
6 trigonometry, statistics, precalculus, calculus, applied math,
7 accounting, business math, a retake of algebra II, a course in
8 financial literacy as described in section 1165. A pupil may
9 complete algebra II over 2 years with 2 credits awarded or over 1.5
10 years with 1.5 credits awarded for the purposes of this section and
11 section 1278b. A pupil also may partially or fully fulfill the
12 algebra II requirement by completing a department-approved formal
13 career and technical education program or curriculum that has
14 appropriate embedded mathematics content, such as a program or
15 curriculum in electronics, machining, construction, welding,
16 engineering, or renewable energy. Not later than 30 days after the
17 effective date of the amendatory act that added the immediately
18 preceding sentence, the department shall post on its website and
19 submit to the senate and house standing committees on education
20 guidelines for implementation of the immediately preceding
21 sentence. Each pupil must successfully complete at least 1
22 mathematics course during his or her final year of high school
23 enrollment. This subparagraph does not require completion of
24 mathematics courses in any particular sequence.

25 (ii) At least 3 credits in social science that are aligned with
26 subject area content expectations developed by the department and
27 approved by the state board under section 1278b, including

1 completion of at least 1 credit in United States history and
2 geography, 1 credit in world history and geography, 1/2 credit in
3 economics, and the civics course described in section 1166(2).

4 (iii) At least 1 credit in subject matter that includes both
5 health and physical education aligned with guidelines developed by
6 the department and approved by the state board under section 1278b.

7 (iv) At least 1 credit in visual arts, performing arts, or
8 applied arts, as defined by the department, that is aligned with
9 guidelines developed by the department and approved by the state
10 board under section 1278b.

11 (v) The credit requirements specified in section 1278b(1).

12 (b) Meets the online course or learning experience requirement
13 of this subsection. A school district or public school academy
14 shall provide the basic level of technology and internet access
15 required by the state board to complete the online course or
16 learning experience. For a pupil to meet this requirement, the
17 pupil shall meet either of the following, as determined by the
18 school district or public school academy:

19 (i) Has successfully completed at least 1 course or learning
20 experience that is presented online, as defined by the department.

21 (ii) The pupil's school district or public school academy has
22 integrated an online experience throughout the high school
23 curriculum by ensuring that each teacher of each course that
24 provides the required credits of the Michigan merit curriculum has
25 integrated an online experience into the course.

26 (2) In addition to the requirements under subsection (1),
27 beginning with pupils entering grade 3 in 2006, the board of a

1 school district or board of directors of a public school academy
2 shall not award a high school diploma to a pupil unless the pupil
3 has successfully completed during grades 9 to 12 at least 2 credits
4 ~~, as determined by the department, in a language~~ **EACH IN AT LEAST 2**
5 **LANGUAGES** other than English, ~~or the~~ **FOR A TOTAL OF 4 CREDITS IN 2**
6 **LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH. FOR 1 OF THE LANGUAGES OTHER THAN**
7 **ENGLISH, THE BOARD OR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MAY CONSIDER A PUPIL TO**
8 **HAVE MET THE 2-CREDIT REQUIREMENT IF THE** pupil has successfully
9 completed at any time during grades K to 12 course work or other
10 learning experiences that are substantially equivalent to 2 credits
11 in a language other than English, based on guidelines developed by
12 the department, **OR HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED A COMBINATION OF THIS**
13 **COURSE WORK OR OTHER LEARNING EXPERIENCES AND HIGH SCHOOL CREDITS**
14 **THAT TOGETHER ARE SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT TO 2 CREDITS IN A**
15 **LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH, BASED ON GUIDELINES DEVELOPED BY THE**
16 **DEPARTMENT.** For the purposes of this subsection, all of the
17 following apply:

18 (a) American sign language is considered to be a language
19 other than English.

20 (b) The pupil may meet all or part of this requirement with
21 online course work.

22 (3) The requirements under this section and section 1278b for
23 a high school diploma are in addition to any local requirements
24 imposed by the board of a school district or board of directors of
25 a public school academy. The board of a school district or board of
26 directors of a public school academy, as a local requirement for a
27 high school diploma, may require a pupil to complete the Michigan

1 merit examination under section 1279g or may require a pupil to
2 participate in the MIAccess assessments if appropriate for the
3 pupil.

4 (4) For the purposes of this section and section 1278b, all of
5 the following apply:

6 (a) A pupil is considered to have completed a credit if the
7 pupil successfully completes the subject area content expectations
8 or guidelines developed by the department that apply to the credit.

9 (b) A school district or public school academy shall base its
10 determination of whether a pupil has successfully completed the
11 subject area content expectations or guidelines developed by the
12 department that apply to a credit at least in part on the pupil's
13 performance on the assessments developed or selected by the
14 department under section 1278b or on 1 or more assessments
15 developed or selected by the school district or public school
16 academy that measure a pupil's understanding of the subject area
17 content expectations or guidelines that apply to the credit.

18 (c) A school district or public school academy shall also
19 grant a pupil a credit if the pupil earns a qualifying score, as
20 determined by the department, on the assessments developed or
21 selected for the subject area by the department under section 1278b
22 or the pupil earns a qualifying score, as determined by the school
23 district or public school academy, on 1 or more assessments
24 developed or selected by the school district or public school
25 academy that measure a pupil's understanding of the subject area
26 content expectations or guidelines that apply to the credit.

27 (5) If a high school is designated by the superintendent of

1 public instruction as a specialty school and the high school meets
2 the requirements of subsection (6), then the pupils of the high
3 school are not required to successfully complete the 4 credits in
4 English language arts required under section 1278b(1)(a) or the 3
5 credits in social science required under subsection (1)(a)(ii) and
6 the school district or public school academy is not required to
7 ensure that each pupil is offered the curriculum necessary for
8 meeting those English language arts or social science credit
9 requirements. The superintendent of public instruction may
10 designate up to 15 high schools that meet the requirements of this
11 subsection as specialty schools. Subject to this maximum number,
12 the superintendent of public instruction shall designate a high
13 school as a specialty school if the superintendent of public
14 instruction finds that the high school meets all of the following
15 criteria:

16 (a) The high school incorporates a significant reading and
17 writing component throughout its curriculum.

18 (b) The high school uses a specialized, innovative, and
19 rigorous curriculum in such areas as performing arts, foreign
20 language, extensive use of internships, or other learning
21 innovations that conform to pioneering innovations among other
22 leading national or international high schools.

23 (6) A high school that is designated by the superintendent of
24 public instruction as a specialty school under subsection (5) is
25 only exempt from requirements as described under subsection (5) as
26 long as the superintendent of public instruction finds that the
27 high school continues to meet all of the following requirements:

1 (a) The high school clearly states to prospective pupils and
2 their parents that it does not meet the requirements of the
3 Michigan merit standard under this section and section 1278b but is
4 a designated specialty school that is exempt from some of those
5 requirements and that a pupil who enrolls in the high school and
6 subsequently transfers to a high school that is not a specialty
7 school meeting the requirements of this subsection will be required
8 to comply with the requirements of the Michigan merit standard
9 under this section and section 1278b.

10 (b) For the most recent year for which the data are available,
11 the mean scores on both the mathematics and science portions of the
12 ACT examination for the pupils of the high school exceed by at
13 least 10% the mean scores on the mathematics and science portions
14 of the ACT examination for the pupils of the school district in
15 which the greatest number of the pupils of the high school reside.

16 (c) For the most recent year for which the data are available,
17 the high school had a graduation rate of at least 85%, as
18 determined by the department.

19 (d) For the most recent year for which the data are available,
20 at least 75% of the pupils who graduated from the high school the
21 preceding year are enrolled in a postsecondary institution.

22 (e) All pupils of the high school are required to meet the
23 mathematics credit requirements of subsection (1)(a)(i), with no
24 modification of these requirements under section 1278b(5), and each
25 pupil is offered the curriculum necessary to meet this requirement.

26 (f) All pupils of the high school are required to meet the
27 science credit requirements of section 1278b(1)(b) and are also

1 required to successfully complete at least 1 additional science
2 credit, for a total of at least 4 science credits, with no
3 modification of these requirements under section 1278b(5), and each
4 pupil is offered the curriculum necessary to meet this requirement.

5 (7) THE LEGISLATURE SHALL APPROPRIATE FUNDING TO IMPLEMENT THE
6 ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS INCLUDED IN THE AMENDATORY ACT THAT ADDED
7 THIS SUBSECTION REGARDING COURSE WORK IN A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN
8 ENGLISH. IT IS THE INTENT OF THE LEGISLATURE THAT THIS FUNDING
9 SHALL BE ALLOCATED TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMIES
10 FOR IMPLEMENTATION IN AN AMOUNT AT LEAST EQUAL TO \$1,000.00 PER
11 MEMBERSHIP PUPIL.