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Bill Analysis
Legislative Service Commission

H.B. 758

123rd General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Hollister, Mettler, Wilson, Grendell, Young, Barrett, Allen, Netzley, Gerberry, Terwilleger, Carey, Patton, Cates, Widener, Schuler, Hood, Hoops, Krebs, Metzger, O'Brien, Buehrer, Schuring, Evans

BILL SUMMARY

- Permits a school district to award a high school diploma to any honorably discharged World War II veteran who left public high school to serve in the armed forces.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Current law on the issuance of high school diplomas to adults

A person who has withdrawn from high school might be eligible for an "Ohio High School Equivalence Diploma" issued by the State Board of Education. To qualify for this diploma, a person must pass the General Education Development (GED) test, which is published by the American Council on Education.¹

As an alternative to the GED process, a person over 21 years old who does not have a high school diploma may be eligible for a "diploma of adult education" from a school district. To qualify, the person must be a resident of the district, have passed all of the ninth grade or tenth grade proficiency tests (unless excused from taking a test due to a disability or because he or she is not a U.S. citizen or permanent resident), and have attained sufficient high school credits to qualify as having completed the district's required curriculum for graduation. In place of high school credits, a district board may accept certain work or volunteer experiences,

¹ *Ohio Administrative Code § 3301-41-01.*

vocational or academic training, or "other life experiences" worthy of high school credit according to standards adopted by the State Board of Education.²

High school diplomas may be issued to World War II veterans under the bill

(sec. 3313.614)

The bill permits a school district that contains the territory in which a World War II veteran attended public high school immediately prior to serving in the U.S. armed forces to grant that veteran a high school diploma if certain conditions are met. First, the veteran must have left public high school prior to graduation in order to serve in the armed forces. Second, the veteran must have been honorably discharged from the armed forces. And, finally, the veteran must not have been granted a diploma, honors diploma, or diploma of adult education.³ The bill does not require that the veteran take the GED or any proficiency tests.

The Department of Education and the Governor's Office of Veterans' Affairs is required under the bill to jointly adopt rules to implement the new diploma provision. These rules are to include procedures for applying for the diploma and for verifying the eligibility of applicants.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	08-18-00	p. 2209

H0758-I.123/ejs

² *R.C. 3313.611, not in the bill. Beginning September 16, 2004, the person must pass the tenth grade proficiency tests rather than the ninth grade tests, which are currently being phased out. (See Section 4 of Am. Sub. S.B. 55 of the 122nd General Assembly.)*

³ *The bill makes no mention of the Ohio High School Equivalence Diploma, which is earned by passing the GED test. It is unclear whether a veteran possessing this diploma is eligible for a school district diploma under the bill.*