



Joanna Saul

## *Bill Analysis*

*Legislative Service Commission*

### **S.B. 112**

126th General Assembly  
(As Introduced)

**Sens. Schuring, Fedor, Brady, Miller**

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#### **BILL SUMMARY**

- Directs the board of education of each city and exempted village school district, the governing board of each educational service center, and the governing board of each cooperative education school district to include business as part of the curriculum.
- Requires high school students to earn one business course credit as a condition for graduation, and reduces the number of elective units required for graduation from six to five, beginning September 15, 2008.
- Requires the Department of Education to develop guidelines to assist the board of education in developing business instruction classes.
- Allows each board to develop and offer to its students an examination in business/computer applications through which the student can satisfy one half of the business course credit requirement by achieving a score of 80% or higher.

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#### **CONTENT AND OPERATION**

##### **Background**

In accordance with current law, the board of education of each city and exempted village school district, the governing board of each educational service center, and the governing board of each cooperative education school district established for the purpose of operating a joint high school must prescribe a curriculum for grades K through 12 that includes the following:

(1) Language arts, including reading, writing, spelling, oral and written English, and literature;

(2) Geography, the history of the United States and of Ohio, and national, state, and local government in the United States;

(3) Mathematics;

(4) Natural science, including instruction in the conservation of natural resources;

(5) Health education, including instruction regarding the nutritive value of foods, the harmful effects and legal restrictions against the use of drugs and alcohol, venereal disease, and personal safety;

(6) Physical education;

(7) The fine arts, including music; and

(8) First aid.

Each school district must also include in the requirements for promotion from eighth grade to ninth grade one year's course in American history.<sup>1</sup>

In addition, continuing law prescribes a minimum high school curriculum for all public and private high schools (except community schools), which must consist of at least 20 units of classroom instruction specifically divided among several core subjects. A unit is 120 hours of instruction, except for a laboratory course for which a unit is 150 hours of instruction. For a physical education course, a half-unit is 120 hours. A school district or private school may require additional units but its curriculum must, at a minimum, require those units as specified in the statute.<sup>2</sup> The 20 units of study are specified as follows:

English Lang. Arts	4 units (480 hours)
Health	½ unit (60 hours)
Mathematics	3 units (360 hours)
Physical Education	½ unit (120 hours)

<sup>1</sup> R.C. 3313.60.

<sup>2</sup> R.C. 3313.603(A) and (B).

Science	3 units (360 to 450 hours), including 1 unit (120 to 150 hours) of biological sciences and 1 unit (120 to 150 hours) of physical sciences
Social Studies	3 units (360 hours), including ½ unit (60 hours) of American history and ½ unit (60 hours) of American government
Electives	6 units (720 hours), including 1 unit (or two ½ units) from business/technology, fine arts, and/or foreign language

Continuing law also requires the Department of Education to develop a packet of high school instructional materials on personal financial responsibility, including instructional materials on the avoidance of credit card abuse, and to distribute that packet to all school districts. A school district board may, but is not required to, adopt part or all of the materials included in the packet for incorporation into the district's curriculum.<sup>3</sup>

**Business required in the curriculum**

(R.C. 3313.60)

The bill requires that business be added as a subject in the curriculum adopted by the board of education of each city and exempted village school district, the governing board of each educational service center, and the board of each cooperative education school district established for the purpose of operating a joint high school. The business requirement must include two components:

(1) Instruction in business and financial literacy. This component must provide the student with an understanding of business, insurance, business ethics, employability skills, credit, bankruptcy, investing consumerism, budgeting, savings, and banking services.

(2) Instruction in computer applications. This component must provide the student with an understanding of computer operating systems, spreadsheets, databases, presentation software, email, effective and ethical use of the internet, word processing applications such as document formatting, resume preparation, and preparing business and personal correspondence.

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<sup>3</sup> R.C. 3301.0726, not in the bill.

**Department of Education guidelines**

The bill directs the Department of Education to develop guidelines concerning the classes that satisfy the requirement for business instruction. These guidelines may be used by the boards of education in developing their business classes. For the business and financial literacy component, the Department may incorporate its packet on personal financial responsibility.<sup>4</sup>

**Business as a requirement for high school graduation**

(R.C. 3313.603)

The bill requires each high school student to complete one unit of business instruction as a condition for graduation. This requirement will begin September 15, 2008; therefore, it will first apply to those students entering their freshmen year of high school in the fall of 2005 (the Class of 2009).

This unit must include one-half unit of business and personal finance, and one-half unit of business/computer applications. The student must complete a minimum of 60 hours of course instruction to earn one-half unit. The courses offered to satisfy the one-half unit of business/computer applications must comply with the computer literacy standards adopted by the State Board of Education.<sup>5</sup>

In addition, the bill reduces the number of elective units required for high school graduation from six to five beginning September 15, 2008. The electives must include at least one unit, or two half units, of fine arts or foreign language. With this reduction in the minimum number of electives, the total minimum number of units required toward graduation remains at 20.

**Examination to test-out of the business/computer applications requirement**

The bill permits each school district, educational service center, and nonpublic school to develop an examination on computer applications and provide its students the opportunity to satisfy the one-half unit of business/computer applications by taking the examination. If a student earns a score of 80% or higher on the examination, the score will satisfy the requirement for one-half unit of business/computer applications. (Where a final examination is required to receive credit for the course towards the graduation requirement, the examination must be considered the final examination.) If a student takes the examination and does not

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<sup>4</sup> R.C. 3301.0726, not in the bill.

<sup>5</sup> R.C. 3301.0718, not in the bill, requires the State Board of Education to adopt standards and model curricula for computer literacy for grades 3 through 12.

receive a score of 80% or higher, the student must complete the one-half unit of credit as otherwise required.

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## **HISTORY**

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>JOURNAL ENTRY</b>
Introduced	03-29-05	p. 348

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