



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

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S.B. 96

130th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Sens. LaRose, Cafaro, Hite, Lehner

BILL SUMMARY

- Requires one unit of world history in the high school social studies curriculum.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Requiring world history in the social studies high school curriculum

Beginning with the first school year succeeding the bill's effective date, the bill requires at least one unit of instruction in the history of one or more cultures from around the world other than that of the United States, as part of the two units of social studies instruction required for high school graduation.¹

Background

Under current law, in order to receive a high school diploma, a student must successfully complete 20 prescribed units of instruction. For most students those units are distributed as follows:

- (1) Four units of English language arts;
- (2) One-half unit of health;
- (3) Four units of math, including one unit of Algebra II;
- (4) One-half unit of physical education;
- (5) Three prescribed units of science;

¹ R.C. 3313.603(B)(7) and (C)(7).

(6) One unit of history and government, consisting of one-half unit of American history and one-half unit of American government;

(7) Two units of social studies;

(8) Five elective units that must be selected from among certain prescribe subjects.²

This curriculum is known as the Ohio Core Curriculum.

Certain students who enter ninth grade before July 1, 2014, may receive their high school diplomas without completing the Ohio Core Curriculum, if they complete, instead, the slightly different 20 units of instruction formerly prescribed for every high school student and meet other conditions.³

The bill adds its requirement for one unit of world history to both the Ohio Core Curriculum and this alternative curriculum.

In addition, the law permanently allows certain students in dropout prevention and recovery programs to receive their high school diplomas without completing the Ohio Core Curriculum, if they complete, instead, a competency-based instructional program and meet other conditions. The bill does not affect this curriculum provision.⁴

The law prescribes one unit of instruction as a minimum of 120 hours of course instruction, except that for a laboratory course, one unit is a minimum of 150 hours of course instruction. (One-half unit of physical education is 120 hours of instruction.)⁵

HISTORY

ACTION

DATE

Introduced

04-04-13

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² R.C. 3313.603(C).

³ R.C. 3313.603(B) and (D).

⁴ R.C. 3316.603(F).

⁵ R.C. 3313.603(A).

