



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

Carol Napp

Am. Sub. S.B. 96 130th General Assembly (As Passed by the Senate)

Sens. LaRose, Cafaro, Hite, Lehner, Eklund, Hughes, Obhof, Peterson, Sawyer, Schiavoni, Smith, Tavares, Turner, Uecker

BILL SUMMARY

- Requires one unit of instruction in the study of world history and civilizations in the high school social studies curriculum.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Requiring world history in the social studies high school curriculum

Beginning with students who enter the ninth grade on or after July 1 that next succeeds the bill's effective date, the bill requires at least one unit of instruction (120 hours) in the study of world history and civilizations, 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 or its equivalent;
- (4) One-half unit of physical education;

¹ R.C. 3313.603(B)(7) and (C)(7).

(5) Three prescribed units of science;

(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

Certain students who enter ninth grade before July 1, 2016, may receive their high school diplomas without completing the requirements for graduation described above, if they complete, instead, the slightly different 20 units of instruction formerly prescribed for every high school student and meet other conditions.³

In addition, the law permanently allows certain students in dropout prevention and recovery programs to receive their high school diplomas without completing the requirements for graduation described above, if they complete, instead, a competency-based instructional program and meet other conditions.⁴

The law defines 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
Reported, S. Education	06-20-13
Recommitted to S. Education	02-12-14
Re-reported, S. Education	02-20-14
Passed Senate (31-0)	05-14-14

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² R.C. 3313.603(C). Am. Sub. H.B. 487 of the 130th General Assembly removed references that described this curriculum as the "Ohio core curriculum" in this and other sections of the Revised Code, so the current version of this section describes these requirements as the curriculum "requirements for graduation."

³ R.C. 3313.603(B) and (D). Am. Sub. H.B. 487 of the 130th General Assembly extended the terminal date of this exemption to July 1, 2016.

⁴ R.C. 3316.603(F).

⁵ R.C. 3313.603(A).

