

Regular Session, 2009

HOUSE BILL NO. 612

BY REPRESENTATIVES FANNIN, ANDERS, CHAMPAGNE, CHANDLER, CHANEY, ELLINGTON, GALLOT, GEYMANN, HOFFMANN, SAM JONES, LAMBERT, LEBAS, LEGER, LITTLE, MCVEA, MORRIS, NOWLIN, POPE, RITCHIE, GARY SMITH, JANE SMITH, ST. GERMAIN, AND THIBAUT AND SENATORS KOSTELKA, LONG, RISER, THOMPSON, AND WALSWORTH

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:183.1, 183.2, and 183.3 and to repeal R.S. 17:183.4, 183.6,
3 183.7, 183.8, and 183.9, relative to curricula; to provide relative to high school
4 career option programs; to provide relative to career major programs; to provide
5 relative to a career diploma; to provide relative to program, course, and curriculum
6 approval; to provide for waivers; to provide relative to program participation
7 eligibility criteria; to provide relative to individual graduation plans; to provide for
8 an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

10 Section 1. R.S. 17:183.1, 183.2, and 183.3 are hereby amended and reenacted to read
11 as follows:

12 §183.1. Purpose

13 A. The purpose of this Subpart is to create a career option in Louisiana's high
14 schools which shall consist of an academic major comprised of college preparatory
15 courses and a career major comprised of challenging academic courses and modern
16 vocational studies.

17 B. In addition to any other diplomas issued by the State Board of Elementary
18 and Secondary Education, the board shall develop and adopt course and curriculum
19 requirements for career major programs offered by city, parish, and other local
20 public school boards in accordance with the provisions of this Subpart and shall issue
21 a career diploma to any student who successfully completes the requirements
22 established for each approved career major program curriculum.

1 C.(1) It is the intention of the legislature that graduation from a Louisiana
 2 public high school by a student with a career major shall in no way restrict the right
 3 of a student who is otherwise eligible to enter into a Louisiana public ~~community~~
 4 ~~college or postsecondary education~~ institution, ~~of public higher education and the~~
 5 ~~curriculum that is developed for the career major shall be designed to accomplish~~
 6 ~~this purpose.~~

7 (2) A career diploma issued by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
 8 Education shall be considered a regular standard diploma and shall be recognized by
 9 all institutions under the management and supervision of the Board of Supervisors
 10 of Community and Technical Colleges.

11 §183.2. Career option description

12 A. To prepare students for choosing a career option at the high school level,
 13 in grades six through eight, teachers shall incorporate activities which expose
 14 students to career and technical and academic fields of study ~~beginning in the 1997-~~
 15 ~~1998 school year.~~ Such activities may include field trips, guest speakers, community
 16 services, and other activities such as word processing, desktop production, computer-
 17 assisted drafting and graphics, and other uses of technology. At least six activities
 18 shall be conducted at each grade level during each school year. Each teacher of
 19 grades six through eight shall maintain records of such activities.

20 B.(1) ~~Beginning in the 1998-1999 school year, by~~ By the end of the eighth
 21 grade, each student shall develop, with the input of his family, a Five Year
 22 ~~Educational~~ Individual Graduation Plan. Such a plan shall include a sequence of
 23 courses which is consistent with the student's stated goals for one year after
 24 graduation. Each student's Five Year ~~Educational~~ Individual Graduation Plan shall
 25 be reviewed annually thereafter by the student, parents, and school advisor and
 26 revised as needed.

27 (2) School guidance counselors or others designated by the school principal,
 28 or both, shall be responsible for the completion of the Five Year ~~Educational~~
 29 Individual Graduation Plan of each eighth grade student. The guidance counselors
 30 and others shall counsel each student with regard to high school graduation

1 requirements and shall assist the student in developing his plan. The guidance
 2 counselors and others shall forward such plans to the appropriate high schools where
 3 such students shall attend.

4 C. ~~During the ninth and tenth grades~~ Throughout high school, each student
 5 shall pursue the rigorous ~~core~~ curriculum required for his chosen major by his school
 6 ~~which shall include required course work as established~~ as approved by the State
 7 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education ~~and appropriate elective courses~~.

8 D. Students shall be able to change from one major to the other at the end of
 9 any school year.

10 §183.3. Career major; description; curriculum and graduation requirements

11 A.(1)(a) A career major shall provide a student with greater technical skill
 12 and a strong academic core and shall be offered to each high school student enrolled
 13 in a city, parish, or other local public school system that offers a career major
 14 program. Such a major shall be linked to postsecondary options and shall prepare
 15 students to pursue either a degree or certification from a postsecondary institution,
 16 an industry-based training or certification, an apprenticeship, the military, or
 17 immediate entrance into a career field. Such a major shall be primarily designed for
 18 those students who are not initially college bound and shall provide them with
 19 alternatives to immediate entrance into a four-year university or college after high
 20 school graduation.

21 (b) Students pursuing a career major shall be afforded the opportunity to
 22 dually enroll in an institution under the management and supervision of the Board
 23 of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges or participate in a business
 24 internship or work-study program when such opportunities are available and
 25 appropriate.

26 (2) ~~By the year 2006, each high school shall offer at least one career major~~
 27 ~~program.~~ (a) Each city, parish, and other local public school system shall develop
 28 and offer one or more career major programs, subject to approval by the State Board
 29 of Elementary and Secondary Education. However, any such school system may be

1 granted a waiver from this requirement by the State Board of Elementary and
2 Secondary Education for good cause.

3 (b) Schools shall review majors offered each year and expand offerings as
4 appropriate, including courses offered through articulation, dual enrollment,
5 correspondence, and technological methods such as distance learning through the
6 Internet and compressed video.

7 B.(1) Students in a career major program shall complete an academic core
8 of courses and a career and technical sequence of courses.

9 (2) The course requirements for the career major shall consist of the
10 following:

11 (a) At least four English ~~credits in courses with content equal to that of~~
12 ~~college preparatory English~~ credits, including English I, English II, and two
13 additional courses comparable or identical to English courses offered by the
14 Louisiana Technical College, as approved by the State Board of Elementary and
15 Secondary Education.

16 (b) At least ~~three~~ four mathematics credits, ~~not fewer than two courses of~~
17 ~~which have content equal to that of college preparatory mathematics~~ including
18 Algebra I, Algebra I Part One, and Algebra I Part Two, or an applied or hybrid
19 Algebra course, and additional applied or hybrid mathematics courses comparable
20 or identical to courses offered by the Louisiana Technical College as needed to fulfill
21 the mathematics course requirements as approved by the State Board of Elementary
22 and Secondary Education.

23 (c) At least three science credits, ~~not fewer than two courses of which have~~
24 ~~content equal to that of college preparatory science~~ including one unit of Biology and
25 two additional courses selected from a list of science courses related to the student's
26 chosen career major as approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
27 Education.

28 (d) At least three social studies credits, ~~not fewer than two courses of which~~
29 ~~shall have content equal to that of college preparatory social studies~~ including one
30 unit of American History and one additional course selected from a list of social

1 studies courses approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
 2 Education. Each student shall successfully complete a course in free enterprise, as
 3 provided in R.S. 17:274, and civics, as provided in R.S. 17:274.1.

4 (e) At least two credits in health and physical education.

5 (f) At least ~~six or more~~ seven credits ~~consisting of four credits in an area of~~
 6 ~~concentration and two related credits, including one credit in a computer technology~~
 7 ~~course~~ in career and technical education courses with end-of-course testing as
 8 appropriate and approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
 9 Education, including at least one-half credit in a career readiness course and one
 10 credit in a computer applications course. Courses shall be selected to prepare a
 11 student for postsecondary education or a career.

12 (g) Additional electives or career and technical education courses required
 13 by the city, parish, or other local public school board as approved by the State Board
 14 of Elementary and Secondary Education.

15 C. ~~Graduation requirements for the career major shall consist of~~
 16 ~~requirements mandated by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education~~
 17 ~~for all high school students, including all testing and course requirements and all~~
 18 ~~provisions of R.S. 17:261 through 279.~~ Each city, parish, and other local public
 19 school board seeking to establish a career major shall submit a proposed curriculum
 20 to the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for approval. Such
 21 curriculum shall comply with the provisions of Subsection B of this Section and the
 22 provisions of R.S. 17:261 through 280.

23 D.(1) A student who seeks to pursue a career major curriculum must meet
 24 one of the following conditions:

25 (a) The student has fulfilled all of the requirements established by the State
 26 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the city, parish, or other local
 27 public school board where the student is enrolled for promotion to the ninth grade.

28 (b)(i) The student is at least fifteen years of age or will attain the age of
 29 fifteen during the next school year, scored at least at the approaching basic level on
 30 either the English Language Arts or mathematics component of the eighth grade

1 Louisiana Educational Assessment Program test, and meets the objective criteria
2 established by the pupil progression plan of the city, parish, or other local public
3 school system where the student is enrolled to enter the ninth grade for the purpose
4 of pursuing a career major curriculum.

5 (ii) Prior to entering the ninth grade, such student must complete a summer
6 remediation program in the subject area of any component of the eighth grade
7 Louisiana Educational Assessment Program test on which the student scored at the
8 unsatisfactory level, as established by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
9 Education. Any such student who fails to satisfactorily complete a summer
10 remediation program shall be required to complete any approved developmental
11 course or courses, for credit, as may be deemed necessary to ensure that the student
12 is prepared to undertake the coursework required for his chosen career major.

13 (iii) The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall certify
14 that the pupil progression plan established by each city, parish, or other local public
15 school system that promotes a student to the ninth grade pursuant to Subparagraph
16 (b) of this Paragraph contains the following requirements:

17 (aa) Such student, at a minimum, must have achieved a cumulative grade
18 point average of at least 1.5 on a 4.0 scale for coursework required for completion
19 of the eighth grade.

20 (bb) Such student must have demonstrated acceptable attendance and
21 behavior standards as determined by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
22 Education.

23 (cc) Such student must participate in a dropout prevention and mentoring
24 program, developed in consultation with school guidance personnel, during their first
25 year in high school, as approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
26 Education.

27 (2) Every student who seeks to pursue a career major shall have the written
28 permission of his parent or other legal guardian after consultation with the school
29 guidance counselor or other school administrator and a determination that
30 participation in a career major curriculum and pursuit of a career diploma issued by

1 the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education is appropriate and in the
2 best interest of the student.

3 Section 2. R.S. 17:183.4, 183.6, 183.7, 183.8, and 183.9 are hereby repealed in their
4 entirety.

5 Section 3. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
6 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
7 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
8 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
9 effective on the day following such approval.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____