

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 944

BY REPRESENTATIVES FANNIN, BROADWATER, HENRY BURNS, CARMODY,
CARTER, JEFFERSON, PRICE, REYNOLDS, AND RICHARD AND SENATOR
KOSTELKA

CURRICULA: Provides relative to the high school career option program

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:183.1(A) and (C)(2), 183.2, 183.3(A)(2), (B), (C), and (D),
3 and 2925 and to enact R.S. 17:183.1(D), relative to the high school career option
4 program; to provide relative to requirements for a career major and related course
5 work; to provide that a career diploma be considered and recognized by all public
6 postsecondary education institutions and given the same status as a regular diploma
7 for purposes of the school and district accountability system; to provide relative to
8 conditions to be met by a student pursuing a career major curriculum; to delete the
9 requirement for parental consent for a student to pursue such curriculum; to delete
10 certain requirements relative to pupil progression plans; to provide relative to
11 requirements for Individual Graduation Plans for students; and to provide for related
12 matters.

13 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

14 Section 1. R.S. 17:183.1(A) and (C)(2), 183.2, 183.3(A)(2), (B), (C), and (D), and
15 2925 are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:183.1(D) is hereby enacted to read as
16 follows:

17 §183.1. Purpose

18 A. The purpose of this Subpart is to create a career option in Louisiana's high
19 schools which shall consist of ~~an academic major comprised of college preparatory~~

1 ~~courses and~~ a career major comprised of challenging academic courses and modern
2 ~~vocational~~ career and technical studies.

3 * * *

4 C.

5 * * *

6 (2) A career diploma earned through a career major program and issued by
7 the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall be considered a
8 regular standard diploma and shall be recognized by all Louisiana public
9 postsecondary education institutions ~~under the management and supervision of the~~
10 ~~Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges.~~

11 D. A career diploma issued to a student pursuant to this Subpart shall be
12 given the same status and recognition for purposes of calculations made pursuant to
13 the school and district accountability system required by R.S. 17:10.1, as is given a
14 regular standard diploma issued by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
15 Education. A school or school system shall not be penalized in any manner for
16 students who are issued a career diploma.

17 §183.2. Career option description

18 A. To prepare students for choosing a career option at the high school level,
19 in grades six through eight, ~~teachers~~ schools shall incorporate activities which expose
20 students to career and technical and academic fields of study. Such activities may
21 include field trips, guest speakers, community services, and other activities ~~such as~~
22 ~~word processing, desktop production, computer-assisted drafting and graphics, and~~
23 ~~other uses of technology~~ designed to introduce students to occupations in demand in
24 Louisiana. At least six activities shall be conducted at each grade level during each
25 school year. ~~Each teacher of grades six through eight shall maintain records of such~~
26 ~~activities.~~

27 ~~B.(1) By the end of the eighth grade, each student shall develop, with the~~
28 ~~input of his family, a Five Year Individual Graduation Plan. Such a plan shall~~
29 ~~include a sequence of courses which is consistent with the student's stated goals for~~

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1 ~~one year after graduation. Each student's Five Year Individual Graduation Plan shall~~
2 ~~be reviewed annually thereafter by the student, parents, and school advisor and~~
3 ~~revised as needed.~~

4 ~~(2) School guidance counselors or others designated by the school principal,~~
5 ~~or both, shall be responsible for the completion of the Five Year Individual~~
6 ~~Graduation Plan of each eighth grade student. The guidance counselors and others~~
7 ~~shall counsel each student with regard to high school graduation requirements and~~
8 ~~shall assist the student in developing his plan. The guidance counselors and others~~
9 ~~shall forward such plans to the appropriate high schools where such students shall~~
10 ~~attend.~~

11 ~~€: B.~~ Throughout high school, each student shall pursue the rigorous
12 curriculum required for his chosen major by his school as and approved by the State
13 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

14 ~~Đ: C.~~ Students shall be able to change from one major to ~~the other~~ another
15 at the end of any school ~~year~~ semester.

16 §183.3. Career major; description; curriculum and graduation requirements

17 A.

18 * * *

19 (2)(a) Each city, parish, and other local public school system shall develop
20 and offer one or more career major programs aligned to state and regional workforce
21 demands, pursuant to policies adopted ~~subject to approval~~ by the State Board of
22 Elementary and Secondary Education. ~~However, any such school system may be~~
23 ~~granted a waiver from this requirement by the State Board of Elementary and~~
24 ~~Secondary Education for good cause.~~

25 (b) Schools, in partnership with local business and industry leaders, local
26 economic development agencies, and postsecondary education leaders, shall review
27 majors offered each year and expand offerings as appropriate, including courses
28 offered through articulation, dual enrollment, ~~correspondence,~~ industry training

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1 ~~programs, and technological methods such as distance learning through the Internet~~
2 ~~and compressed video~~ digital learning opportunities.

3 B.(1) Students in a career major program shall complete an academic core
4 of courses and a career and technical sequence of courses or approved training
5 programs that lead to an approved industry-based credential.

6 (2) The course requirements for the career major shall consist of the
7 following:

8 (a) At least four English credits, including English I, English II, and two
9 additional courses from among the following: English III, English IV, AP or IB
10 English courses, Business English, Technical Writing, or comparable Louisiana
11 Technical College comparable or identical to English courses offered by the
12 Louisiana Technical College, Jump Start regional teams as approved by the State
13 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

14 (b) At least four mathematics credits, including Algebra I, Algebra I Part
15 One, and Algebra I Part Two, or an applied or hybrid Algebra course, and three
16 additional ~~applied or hybrid~~ mathematics courses from among the following:
17 Geometry, Math Essentials, Financial Literacy, Business Math, Algebra II, Algebra
18 III, Advanced Math - Functions and Statistics, Advanced Math - Pre-Calculus, Pre-
19 Calculus, or comparable Louisiana Technical College comparable or identical to
20 courses offered by the Louisiana Technical College as needed to fulfill the
21 mathematics course requirements Jump Start regional teams as approved by the State
22 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Integrated Mathematics I, II, and
23 III may be substituted for Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II, and shall equal three
24 mathematics credits.

25 (c) At least ~~three~~ two science credits, including one ~~unit~~ credit of Biology
26 and two additional courses ~~selected from a list of science courses related to the~~
27 ~~student's chosen career major as approved by the State Board of Elementary and~~
28 ~~Secondary Education~~ among the following: Chemistry I, Earth Science,

1 Environmental Science, Physical Science, Agriscience I and Agriscience II (one
2 credit combined), AP or IB Science courses.

3 (d) At least ~~three~~ two social studies credits, including one credit from among
4 the following: U.S. History, AP U.S. History, or IB U.S. History; one-half credit
5 from among the following: Government, AP U.S. Government and Politics:
6 Comparative, or AP U.S. Government and Politics: United States; and one-half credit
7 from among the following: Economics, AP Macroeconomics, or AP
8 Microeconomics. One credit of Civics may be substituted for any two of the one-
9 half credit courses specified in this Subparagraph ~~unit of American History and one~~
10 ~~additional course selected from a list of social studies courses approved by the State~~
11 ~~Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Each student shall successfully~~
12 ~~complete coursework in Civics and Free Enterprise, as provided in R.S. 17:274.1.~~

13 (e) At least two credits in Health and Physical Education, including one
14 credit of Physical Education I, one-half credit from among the following: Physical
15 Education II, Marching Band, Extracurricular Sports, Cheering, or Dance Teams;
16 and one-half credit of Health Education.

17 (f) At least ~~seven~~ nine credits in ~~career and technical education courses with~~
18 ~~end-of-course testing as appropriate and approved by the State Board of Elementary~~
19 ~~and Secondary Education, including at least one-half credit in a career readiness~~
20 ~~course and one credit in a computer applications course. Courses shall be selected~~
21 ~~to prepare a student for postsecondary education or a career. Jump Start course~~
22 sequences, workplace experiences, and credentials. A student shall complete a
23 regionally designed series of Career and Technical Education Jump Start coursework
24 and workplace-based learning experiences leading to a statewide or regional Jump
25 Start credential. This shall include courses and workplace experiences specific to the
26 credential, courses related to foundational career skills requirements in Jump Start,
27 and other courses, including career electives, that the Jump Start regional team
28 determines are appropriate for the career major.

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

4 ~~(3) The questions included in any end-of-course examination administered~~
5 ~~to students pursuing a career major program and curriculum as provided in this~~
6 ~~Section, the passage of which is required for high school graduation, shall be~~
7 ~~constructed in a manner that reflects course design and content and the method of~~
8 ~~instruction employed for the course.~~

9 (3) A student pursuing a career diploma shall take the WorkKeys test or may
10 choose to take the American College Test.

11 C. Each city, parish, and other local public school board ~~seeking to establish~~
12 ~~a career major~~ shall submit a proposed curriculum to the State Board of Elementary
13 and Secondary Education for approval. Such curriculum shall comply with the
14 provisions of Subsection B of this Section and the provisions of R.S. 17:261 through
15 280.

16 D.~~(†)~~ A student who seeks to pursue a career major curriculum ~~must~~ shall
17 meet one of the following conditions:

18 ~~(a)(1) The student has~~ Has fulfilled all of the requirements established by the
19 State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the city, parish, or other
20 local public school board where the student is enrolled for promotion to ~~the ninth~~
21 ~~grade~~ high school.

22 ~~(b)(i) The student is at least fifteen years of age, or will attain the age of~~
23 ~~fifteen during the next school year, scored at least at the approaching basic level on~~
24 ~~either the English/Language Arts or Mathematics component of the eighth grade~~
25 ~~Louisiana Educational Assessment Program test, and meets the objective criteria~~
26 ~~established by the pupil progression plan of the city, parish, or other local public~~
27 ~~school system where the student is enrolled to enter the ninth grade for the purpose~~
28 ~~of pursuing a career major curriculum.~~

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

9 (iii) ~~The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall certify~~
10 ~~that the pupil progression plan established by each city, parish, or other local public~~
11 ~~school system that promotes a student to the ninth grade pursuant to this~~
12 ~~Subparagraph contains the following requirements:~~

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

16 (bb) ~~Such student must have demonstrated acceptable attendance and~~
17 ~~behavior standards as determined by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary~~
18 ~~Education.~~

19 (cc) ~~Such student must participate, during his first year in high school, in a~~
20 ~~dropout prevention and mentoring program developed in consultation with school~~
21 ~~guidance personnel, as approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary~~
22 ~~Education.~~

23 (2) ~~Every student who seeks to pursue a career major must have the written~~
24 ~~permission of his parent or other legal guardian, after consultation with the school~~
25 ~~guidance counselor or other school administrator and a determination that~~
26 ~~participation in a career major curriculum and pursuit of a career diploma issued by~~
27 ~~the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education is appropriate and in the~~
28 ~~best interest of the student.~~

1 ~~(2) Has fulfilled or is determined to be on track to fulfill the course~~
2 ~~requirements set forth in Paragraph (B)(2) of this Section.~~

3 (3) Meets the entry or admissions requirements set forth in the chosen career
4 major program.

5 * * *

6 §2925. Individual ~~graduation plans~~ Graduation Plan

7 A.(1) ~~In accordance with the provisions of R.S. 17:183.2, by~~ By the end of
8 the eighth grade, every student, with the assistance of his parent or other legal
9 ~~guardian custodian and school guidance personnel, counselor,~~ shall begin to develop
10 ~~an individual graduation plan to~~ Individual Graduation Plan to guide the next
11 ~~academic year's course work and to assist them~~ the student in exploring educational
12 and career possibilities and in making appropriate secondary and postsecondary
13 decisions as part of an overall ~~career~~ postsecondary plan.

14 (2) By the end of the eighth grade, each student's Individual Graduation Plan
15 shall list the required core courses to be taken through the tenth grade and shall
16 identify the courses to be taken in the first year of high school. Students who fail to
17 meet the standard for promotion to the ninth grade, pursuant to policies adopted by
18 the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, shall have any necessary
19 remedial courses included in their Individual Graduation Plan. The plan shall be
20 reviewed annually and updated as necessary to identify the courses to be taken each
21 year until all required core courses are completed.

22 (3) By the end of the tenth grade, each student's Individual Graduation Plan,
23 based on the student's academic record, talents and interests, shall outline high
24 school graduation requirements relevant to the student's chosen postsecondary goals.
25 Each student, with the assistance of his parent or other legal ~~guardian custodian and~~
26 ~~school guidance personnel, counselor~~ shall be allowed to choose the high school
27 curriculum framework and related graduation requirements that best meets his
28 postsecondary goals. Each student's ~~individual graduation plan~~ Individual
29 Graduation Plan shall include the recommended sequence of courses for successful

1 completion of ~~his chosen major a standard diploma that aligns with postsecondary~~
2 ~~education, training, and the workforce~~ and shall be reviewed annually and updated
3 or revised as needed.

4 ~~(3)~~ (4) The Individual Graduation Plan ~~Individual graduation plans~~ shall be
5 sufficiently flexible to allow ~~students~~ the student to change ~~their~~ his program of
6 study, yet be sufficiently structured to ensure that ~~a~~ the student will meet the high
7 school graduation requirements for his chosen major and be qualified for admission
8 to a postsecondary education institution or to enter the workforce.

9 ~~(4)~~ (5) Each student's ~~individual graduation plan~~ Individual Graduation Plan
10 shall be signed by the student, ~~and~~ his parent or other legal ~~guardian, custodian, and~~
11 the school counselor.

12 B. To provide a foundation for the development of ~~individual graduation~~
13 ~~plans~~ the Individual Graduation Plan, schools shall provide career awareness and
14 exploration activities to all students in grades six through eight that create linkages
15 between what a student does in school and what he wants to achieve in life. Such
16 activities shall include career interest inventories and information to assist them in
17 the career decisionmaking process and may include job shadowing, job mentoring,
18 and job internships.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Fannin

HB No. 944

Abstract: Provides relative to the high school career option program including requirements for a career major and related course work. Provides that a career diploma be considered and recognized by all public postsecondary education institutions and treated the same as a regular diploma for purposes of the school and district accountability system. Provides relative to requirements for Individual Graduation Plans.

Present law relative to the high school career option program, provides for an academic major (college prep. courses) and a career major (academic courses and modern vocational studies). Proposed law deletes the reference to an academic major.

Present law requires the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to develop and adopt requirements for career major programs offered by school boards and to

issue a career diploma to students who successfully complete such requirements. Provides that a career diploma is considered a regular, standard diploma and is recognized by institutions under the Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges (LCTCS board). Proposed law retains present law except provides that a career diploma shall be recognized by all La. public postsecondary education institutions. Adds that a career diploma be given the same status and recognition for purposes of calculations of the school and district accountability system as is given a regular, standard diploma and prohibits a school or school system from being penalized in any manner for students who are issued a career diploma.

Present law requires public school systems to develop and offer at least one career major program, subject to BESE approval, and provides that any such system may be granted a waiver by BESE for good cause. Proposed law instead requires such program to be developed and offered by school boards pursuant to BESE policy and deletes the waiver allowance.

Present law requires students in a career major program to complete an academic core of courses and a career and technical sequence of courses and specifies course requirements.

Proposed law provides for various changes to and retention of the career major course requirements. Requires the completion of a regionally designed series of Career and Technical Education Jump Start coursework and workplace-based learning experiences leading to a statewide or regional Jump Start credential. Provides that students pursuing a career diploma shall take the WorkKeys test or may choose to take the American College Test (ACT).

Present law requires a student seeking to pursue a career major curriculum to meet one of the following conditions:

- (1) Has fulfilled all requirements established by BESE and the local public school board for promotion to 9th grade.
- (2) Is at least 15 or will turn 15 during the upcoming school year and has scored at least approaching basic on certain LEAP tests and meets criteria established by the local school system's pupil progression plan to enter the 9th grade to pursue a career major curriculum. Such student must also complete a summer remediation program in the subject area of any LEAP test component on which he scored at the unsatisfactory level. A student who fails to satisfactorily complete summer remediation must complete developmental courses (for credit) necessary to be prepared to undertake the course work required for his chosen career major.

Requires BESE to certify that the pupil progression plan of each local school system that promotes a student who did not meet 8th grade LEAP standards to the 9th grade contains specified requirements. Requires a student to have written permission of his parent or legal guardian after consultation with a guidance counselor or school administrator and a determination that participation in a career major curriculum and pursuit of a career diploma is appropriate and in the student's best interest.

Proposed law deletes present law condition (2) above and instead requires that a student have fulfilled or be on track to fulfill all of the course requirements as specified in present law and proposed law. Adds a condition that a student may meet the entry or admission requirements set forth in the chosen career major program. Deletes requirements that BESE certify pupil progression plans and that a student have written permission from a parent or guardian.

Present law relative to Individual Graduation Plans, requires students by the end of the 8th grade, to develop a plan to help explore educational and career possibilities and to make appropriate decisions as part of an overall career plan. Permits students to choose the high school curriculum framework and related graduation requirements that best meet their

postsecondary goals. Provides that each student's plan shall include the recommended sequence of courses needed for successful completion of his chosen career major and shall be reviewed annually and updated as needed. Requires that a student's plan be signed by the student and his parent or other legal guardian. Proposed law retains present law except requires the student to begin developing the plan by the end of the 8th grade as a guide for the next academic year's course work and provides that the recommended sequence of courses shall be as needed for successful completion of a standard diploma instead of a chosen career major. Adds that the plan list the required courses to be taken through 10th grade; identify the courses to be taken in the first year of high school; include any necessary remedial courses if the student fails to meet the standard for promotion to the 9th grade; and by the end of the 10th grade, outline high school graduation requirements relevant to the student's postsecondary goals.

(Amends R.S. 17:183.1(A) and (C)(2), 183.2, 183.3(A)(2), (B), (C), and (D), and 2925; Adds R.S. 17:183.1(D))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill.

1. Makes various changes to the career major course requirements.
2. Adds that students pursuing a career diploma shall take the WorkKeys test or may choose to take the ACT.
3. Deletes provision that allows for the completion of a series of career and technical education courses leading to a work or postsecondary education credential and instead requires the completion of a regionally designed series of Career and Technical Education Jump Start coursework and workplace-based learning experiences leading to a statewide or regional Jump Start credential.