

ACT No. 643

HOUSE BILL NO. 944

BY REPRESENTATIVES FANNIN, ADAMS, ANDERS, BADON, BARRAS, BERTHELOT, BILLIOT, WESLEY BISHOP, BROADWATER, BROWN, BURFORD, HENRY BURNS, TIM BURNS, BURRELL, CARMODY, CARTER, CHAMPAGNE, CHANEY, COX, DANAHAY, DIXON, DOVE, EDWARDS, GAROFALO, GISCLAIR, GUILLORY, GUINN, HARRIS, HARRISON, HAVARD, HILL, HOFFMANN, HOWARD, HUVAL, IVEY, JEFFERSON, JONES, KLECKLEY, LEGER, LEOPOLD, LOPINTO, LORUSSO, MILLER, MONTOUCET, JAY MORRIS, POPE, PRICE, PYLANT, REYNOLDS, RICHARD, RITCHIE, SCHEXNAYDER, SHADOIN, SMITH, ST. GERMAIN, STOKES, THIBAUT, THIERRY, WHITNEY, PATRICK WILLIAMS, AND WOODRUFF AND SENATORS KOSTELKA, LONG, NEVERS, AND WALSWORTH

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. Except as provided in R.S. 17:183.3(B)(3), a career diploma issued to a
12 student pursuant to this Subpart shall be given the same status and recognition for
13 purposes of calculations made pursuant to the school and district accountability
14 system required by R.S. 17:10.1, as is given a regular standard diploma issued by the
15 State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. A school or school system
16 shall not be penalized in any manner for 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~~
30 ~~one year after graduation. Each student's Five Year Individual Graduation Plan shall~~

1 be reviewed annually thereafter by the student, parents, and school advisor and
2 revised as needed.

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

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

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

15 §183.3. Career major; description; curriculum and graduation requirements

16 A.
17 * * *

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

24 (b) Schools, in partnership with local business and industry leaders, local
25 economic development agencies, and postsecondary education leaders, shall review
26 majors offered each year and expand offerings as appropriate, including courses
27 offered through articulation, dual enrollment, ~~correspondence,~~ industry training
28 programs, and ~~technological methods such as distance learning through the Internet~~
29 ~~and compressed video~~ digital learning opportunities.

CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.

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

4 (2) The course requirements for the career major shall consist of the
 5 following:

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

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

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

29 (d) At least ~~three~~ two social studies credits, including one credit from among
 30 the following: U.S. History, AP U.S. History, or IB U.S. History; one-half credit

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

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

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

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

28 ~~(3) The questions included in any end-of-course examination administered~~
 29 ~~to students pursuing a career major program and curriculum as provided in this~~
 30 ~~Section, the passage of which is required for high school graduation, shall be~~

1 ~~constructed in a manner that reflects course design and content and the method of~~
 2 ~~instruction employed for the course.~~

3 (3) A student pursuing a career diploma shall take the American College
 4 Test and may choose to take the WorkKeys test. The State Board of Elementary and
 5 Secondary Education shall develop a system of equivalent scores for the American
 6 College Test and the WorkKeys test and shall use a student's highest score achieved
 7 on such test or tests for purposes of the school and district accountability system
 8 required by R.S. 17:10.1.

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

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

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

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

27 ~~(ii) Prior to entering the ninth grade, such student must complete a summer~~
 28 ~~remediation program in the subject area of any component of the eighth grade~~
 29 ~~Louisiana Educational Assessment Program test on which the student scored at the~~
 30 ~~unsatisfactory level, as established by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary~~

1 Education. ~~Any such student who fails to satisfactorily complete a summer
2 remediation program shall be required to complete any approved developmental
3 course or courses, for credit, as may be deemed necessary to ensure that the student
4 is prepared to undertake the coursework required for his chosen career major.~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 * * *

CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.

1 §2925. Individual ~~graduation plans~~ Graduation Plan

2 A.(1) ~~In accordance with the provisions of R.S. 17:183.2, by~~ By the end of
3 the eighth grade, every student, with the assistance of his parent or other legal
4 ~~guardian custodian and school guidance personnel; counselor,~~ shall begin to develop
5 an ~~individual graduation plan to~~ Individual Graduation Plan to guide the next
6 academic year's course work and to assist them the student in exploring educational
7 and career possibilities and in making appropriate secondary and postsecondary
8 education decisions as part of an overall ~~career~~ postsecondary plan. ~~The plan shall~~
9 ~~be based on the student's talents and interests and shall consider high school~~
10 ~~graduation requirements relevant to the student's chosen major and postsecondary~~
11 ~~entrance requirements.~~

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

20 (3) By the end of the tenth grade, each student's Individual Graduation Plan,
21 based on the student's academic record, talents and interests, shall outline high
22 school graduation requirements relevant to the student's chosen postsecondary goals.
23 Each student, with the assistance of his parent or other legal ~~guardian custodian~~ and
24 school ~~guidance personnel; counselor~~ shall ~~be allowed to~~ choose the high school
25 curriculum framework and related graduation requirements that best meets his
26 postsecondary goals. Each student's ~~individual graduation plan~~ Individual
27 Graduation Plan shall include the recommended sequence of courses for successful
28 completion of ~~his chosen major a standard diploma that aligns with postsecondary~~
29 ~~education, training, and the workforce~~ and shall be reviewed annually and updated
30 or revised as needed.

1 ~~(3)~~(4) The Individual Graduation Plan ~~Individual graduation plans~~ shall be
 2 sufficiently flexible to allow ~~students~~ the student to change ~~their~~ his program of
 3 study, yet be sufficiently structured to ensure that a the student will meet the high
 4 school graduation requirements for his chosen major and be qualified for admission
 5 to a postsecondary education institution or to enter the workforce.

6 ~~(4)~~(5) Each student's ~~individual graduation plan~~ Individual Graduation Plan
 7 shall be signed by the student, ~~and his parent or other legal guardian.~~ custodian, and
 8 the school counselor.

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

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____