

## 2002 SESSION

## HOUSE SUBSTITUTE

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### SENATE BILL NO. 609

#### AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the House Committee on Education  
on February 20, 2002)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Senator Houck)

*A BILL to provide guidelines for the awarding of standard diplomas for certain public school students.*

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. § 1.** *The provisions of the Standards of Accreditation (8 VAC 20-131-10 et. seq.) governing diploma requirements notwithstanding, the Board of Education shall establish guidelines for local school boards to award verified units of credit for standard diplomas to students who have (i) entered the ninth grade for the first time during the school years of 2000-2001, 2001-2002, and 2002-2003; and (ii) passed the relevant coursework.*

*Such students shall meet such additional criteria established by the Board for the award of such verified units which may include, but shall not be limited to, performance on Standards of Learning assessments or other tests, including subsequent administrations of such assessments or tests; attendance and conduct requirements; and participation in remediation programs.*

*The guidelines shall set forth procedures for the award of such verified units by local school boards and shall be applicable only to the award of the four student-selected verified units of credit required for a standard diploma pursuant to the Standards of Accreditation (8 VAC 20-131-50 B). Students shall be required to earn the two verified units of credit in English for a standard diploma as provided in the Standards of Accreditation.*

*The guidelines issued by the Board shall not be subject to the Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq.) and shall be applicable to students who have entered the ninth grade for the first time during the school years of 2000-2001, 2001-2002, and 2002-2003.*

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