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**HOUSE BILL NO. 2142****AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE**(Proposed by the House Committee on Education  
on February 1, 2017)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate LeMunyon)

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 22.1-253.13:4 of the Code of Virginia and the fifth and sixth enactments of Chapter 750 of the Acts of Assembly of 2016, relating to the Board of Education; graduation requirements; verified credits.*

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:****1. That § 22.1-253.13:4 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 22.1-253.13:4. Standard 4. Student achievement and graduation requirements.**

A. Each local school board shall award diplomas to all secondary school students, including students who transfer from nonpublic schools or from home instruction, who meet the requirements prescribed by the Board of Education and meet such other requirements as may be prescribed by the local school board and approved by the Board of Education. Provisions shall be made to facilitate the transfer and appropriate grade placement of students from other public secondary schools, from nonpublic schools, or from home instruction as outlined in the standards for accreditation. The standards for accreditation shall include provisions relating to the completion of graduation requirements through Virtual Virginia. Further, reasonable accommodation to meet the requirements for diplomas shall be provided for otherwise qualified students with disabilities as needed.

In addition, each local school board may devise, vis-a-vis the award of diplomas to secondary school students, a mechanism for calculating class rankings that takes into consideration whether the student has taken a required class more than one time and has had any prior earned grade for such required class expunged.

Each local school board shall notify the parents of rising eleventh and twelfth grade students of (i) the requirements for graduation pursuant to the standards for accreditation and (ii) the requirements that have yet to be completed by the individual student.

B. Students identified as disabled who complete the requirements of their individualized education programs and meet certain requirements prescribed by the Board pursuant to regulations but do not meet the requirements for any named diploma shall be awarded Applied Studies diplomas by local school boards.

Each local school board shall notify the parent of such students with disabilities who have an individualized education program and who fail to meet the graduation requirements of the student's right to a free and appropriate education to age 21, inclusive, pursuant to Article 2 (§ 22.1-213 et seq.) of Chapter 13.

C. Students who have completed a prescribed course of study as defined by the local school board shall be awarded certificates of program completion by local school boards if they are not eligible to receive a Board of Education-approved diploma.

Each local school board shall provide notification of the right to a free public education for students who have not reached 20 years of age on or before August 1 of the school year, pursuant to Chapter 1 (§ 22.1-1 et seq.), to the parent of students who fail to graduate or who have failed to achieve graduation requirements as provided in the standards for accreditation. If such student who does not graduate or complete such requirements is a student for whom English is a second language, the local school board shall notify the parent of the student's opportunity for a free public education in accordance with § 22.1-5.

D. (From Acts 2016, cc. 720 & 750: The graduation requirements established by the Board of Education pursuant to the provisions of subdivisions D 1, 2, and 3 shall apply to each student who enrolls in high school as (i) a freshman after July 1, 2018; (ii) a sophomore after July 1, 2019; (iii) a junior after July 1, 2020; or (iv) a senior after July 1, 2021) In establishing graduation requirements, the Board shall:

1. Develop and implement, in consultation with stakeholders representing elementary and secondary education, higher education, and business and industry in the Commonwealth and including parents, policymakers, and community leaders in the Commonwealth, a Profile of a Virginia Graduate that identifies the knowledge and skills that students should attain during high school in order to be successful contributors to the economy of the Commonwealth, giving due consideration to critical thinking, creative thinking, collaboration, communication, and citizenship.

2. Emphasize the development of core skill sets in the early years of high school.

3. Establish multiple paths toward college and career readiness for students to follow in the later years of high school. Each such pathway shall include opportunities for internships, externships, and

60 credentialing.

61 4. Provide for the selection of integrated learning courses meeting the Standards of Learning and  
62 approved by the Board to satisfy graduation requirements, which shall include Standards of Learning  
63 testing, as necessary.

64 5. *Require students to earn at least one verified credit in each of the following subjects:*  
65 *mathematics, reading, writing, science, and history and social science. Such verified credit shall be*  
66 *earned by a student achieving a passing score on (i) the associated end-of-course Standards of Learning*  
67 *assessment, provided that a portion of any such end-of-course Standards of Learning assessment in*  
68 *history and social science may include a performance assessment relating to skills in critical thinking;*  
69 *(ii) any nationally or internationally recognized high school academic assessment, industry certification,*  
70 *state licensure examination, or national occupational competency assessment approved by the Board*  
71 *pursuant to subdivision 13; or (iii) in the case of a student with a disability for whom such an*  
72 *assessment is appropriate, an alternate, alternative, or substitute assessment approved by the Board.*

73 6. Require students to complete at least one course in fine or performing arts or career and technical  
74 education, one course in United States and Virginia history, and two sequential elective courses chosen  
75 from a concentration of courses selected from a variety of options that may be planned to ensure the  
76 completion of a focused sequence of elective courses that provides a foundation for further education or  
77 training or preparation for employment.

78 ~~6. Graduation requirements shall include a requirement~~ 7. *Require* that students either (i) complete an  
79 Advanced Placement, honors, or International Baccalaureate course or (ii) earn a career and technical  
80 education credential that has been approved by the Board, except when a career and technical education  
81 credential in a particular subject area is not readily available or appropriate or does not adequately  
82 measure student competency, in which case the student shall receive satisfactory competency-based  
83 instruction in the subject area to earn credit. The career and technical education credential, when  
84 required, could include the successful completion of an industry certification, a state licensure  
85 examination, a national occupational competency assessment, or the Virginia workplace readiness skills  
86 assessment.

87 ~~7.~~ 8. Beginning with first-time ninth grade students in the 2016-2017 school year, require students to  
88 be trained in emergency first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and the use of automated external  
89 defibrillators, including hands-on practice of the skills necessary to perform cardiopulmonary  
90 resuscitation.

91 ~~8.~~ 9. Make provision in its regulations for students with disabilities to earn a diploma.

92 ~~9.~~ 10. Require students to complete one virtual course, which may be a noncredit-bearing course.

93 ~~10.~~ 11. Provide that students who complete elective classes into which the Standards of Learning for  
94 any required course have been integrated and achieve a passing score on the relevant Standards of  
95 Learning test for the relevant required course receive credit for such elective class.

96 ~~11.~~ 12. Establish a procedure to facilitate the acceleration of students that allows qualified students,  
97 with the recommendation of the division superintendent, without completing the 140-hour class, to  
98 obtain credit for such class upon demonstrating mastery of the course content and objectives and  
99 receiving a passing score on the relevant Standards of Learning assessment. Nothing in this section shall  
100 preclude relevant school division personnel from enforcing compulsory attendance in public schools.

101 ~~12.~~ 13. Provide for the award of credit for passing scores on industry certifications, state licensure  
102 examinations, and national occupational competency assessments approved by the Board of Education.

103 School boards shall report annually to the Board of Education the number of Board-approved  
104 industry certifications obtained, state licensure examinations passed, national occupational competency  
105 assessments passed, Virginia workplace readiness skills assessments passed, and the number of career  
106 and technical education completers who graduated. These numbers shall be reported as separate  
107 categories on the School Performance Report Card.

108 For the purposes of this subdivision, "career and technical education completer" means a student who  
109 has met the requirements for a career and technical concentration or specialization and all requirements  
110 for high school graduation or an approved alternative education program.

111 In addition, the Board may:

112 a. For the purpose of awarding credit, approve the use of ~~additional or~~ *nationally or internationally*  
113 *recognized high school academic assessments* as substitute tests for the correlated Standards of Learning  
114 ~~assessment, such as academic achievement tests, industry certifications or state licensure examinations;~~  
115 and

116 b. Permit students completing career and technical education programs designed to enable such  
117 students to pass such industry certification examinations or state licensure examinations to be awarded,  
118 upon obtaining satisfactory scores on such industry certification or licensure examinations, appropriate  
119 credit for one or more career and technical education classes into which relevant Standards of Learning  
120 for various classes taught at the same level have been integrated. Such industry certification and state  
121 licensure examinations may cover relevant Standards of Learning for various required classes and may,

at the discretion of the Board, address some Standards of Learning for several required classes.

~~13.~~ 14. Provide for the waiver of certain graduation requirements (i) upon the Board's initiative or (ii) at the request of a local school board. Such waivers shall be granted only for good cause and shall be considered on a case-by-case basis.

14. 15. Consider all computer science course credits earned by students to be science course credits, mathematics course credits, or career and technical education credits. The Board of Education shall develop guidelines addressing how computer science courses can satisfy graduation requirements.

~~15.~~ 16. Permit local school divisions to waive the requirement for students to receive 140 clock hours of instruction upon providing the Board with satisfactory proof, based on Board guidelines, that the students for whom such requirements are waived have learned the content and skills included in the relevant Standards of Learning.

E. In the exercise of its authority to recognize exemplary performance by providing for diploma seals:

1. The Board shall develop criteria for recognizing exemplary performance in career and technical education programs by students who have completed the requirements for a Board of Education-approved diploma and shall award seals on the diplomas of students meeting such criteria.

2. The Board shall establish criteria for awarding a diploma seal for advanced mathematics and technology for the Board of Education-approved diplomas. The Board shall consider including criteria for (i) technology courses; (ii) technical writing, reading, and oral communication skills; (iii) technology-related training; and (iv) industry, professional, and trade association national certifications.

3. The Board shall establish criteria for awarding a diploma seal for excellence in civics education and understanding of our state and federal constitutions and the democratic model of government for the Board of Education-approved diplomas. The Board shall consider including criteria for (i) successful completion of history, government, and civics courses, including courses that incorporate character education; (ii) voluntary participation in community service or extracurricular activities that includes the types of activities that shall qualify as community service and the number of hours required; and (iii) related requirements as it deems appropriate.

4. The Board shall establish criteria for awarding a diploma seal of biliteracy to any student who demonstrates proficiency in English and at least one other language for the Board of Education-approved diplomas. The Board shall consider criteria including the student's (i) score on a College Board Advanced Placement foreign language examination, (ii) score on an SAT II Subject Test in a foreign language, (iii) proficiency level on an ACTFL Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages (AAPPL) measure or another nationally or internationally recognized language proficiency test, or (iv) cumulative grade point average in a sequence of foreign language courses approved by the Board.

F. The Board shall establish, by regulation, requirements for the award of a general achievement adult high school diploma for those persons who are not subject to the compulsory school attendance requirements of § 22.1-254 and have (i) achieved a passing score on a high school equivalency examination approved by the Board of Education; (ii) successfully completed an education and training program designated by the Board of Education; (iii) earned a Board of Education-approved career and technical education credential such as the successful completion of an industry certification, a state licensure examination, a national occupational competency assessment, or the Virginia workplace readiness skills assessment; and (iv) satisfied other requirements as may be established by the Board for the award of such diploma.

G. To ensure the uniform assessment of high school graduation rates, the Board shall collect, analyze, report, and make available to the public high school graduation and dropout data using a formula prescribed by the Board.

H. The Board shall also collect, analyze, report, and make available to the public high school graduation and dropout data using a formula that excludes any student who fails to graduate because such student is in the custody of the Department of Corrections, the Department of Juvenile Justice, or local law enforcement. For the purposes of the Standards of Accreditation, the Board shall use the graduation rate required by this subsection.

I. The Board may promulgate such regulations as may be necessary and appropriate for the collection, analysis, and reporting of such data required by subsections G and H.

**2. That the fifth and sixth enactments of Chapter 750 of the Acts of Assembly of 2016 are amended and reenacted as follows:**

**5. That no later than December 1, 2017 2018, the Board of Education shall submit to the Registrar of Regulations final regulations to establish graduation requirements pursuant to the provisions of subdivisions D 1, 2, and 3 of § 22.1-253.13:4 of the Code of Virginia, as amended by this act.**

**6. That the graduation requirements established by the Board of Education pursuant to the**

183 provisions of subdivisions D 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 of § 22.1-253.13:4 of the Code of Virginia, as  
184 amended by this act, shall apply to each student who enrolls in high school as (i) a freshman after  
185 July 1, ~~2018~~ 2019; (ii) a sophomore after July 1, ~~2019~~ 2020; (iii) a junior after July 1, ~~2020~~ 2021;  
186 or (iv) a senior after July 1, ~~2021~~ 2022.