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HOUSE BILL 554

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001

INTRODUCED BY

Anna M. Crook

AN ACT

**RELATING TO EDUCATION; AMENDING GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS;
PROVIDING FOR MARCHING BAND TO COUNT TOWARD FULFILLMENT OF THE
PHYSICAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENT UPON THE APPROVAL OF THE LOCAL
SCHOOL BOARD.**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

**Section 1. Section 22-2-8.4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1986,
Chapter 33, Section 5, as amended) is amended to read:**

"22-2-8.4. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS. --

**A. At the end of the eighth grade or during the
ninth grade, each student shall prepare an individual program
of study for grades nine through twelve. The program of study
shall be signed by a student's parent or guardian.**

**B. [~~Beginning with students entering the ninth
grade in the 1986-87 school year~~] Successful completion of a**

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 minimum of twenty-three units shall be required for
2 graduation. These units shall be as follows:

3 (1) four units in English, with major
4 emphasis on grammar and literature;

5 (2) three units in mathematics;

6 (3) two units in science, one of which shall
7 have a laboratory component;

8 (4) three units in social science, which
9 shall include United States history and geography, world
10 history and geography, and government and economics;

11 (5) one unit in physical fitness;

12 (6) one unit in communication skills, with
13 major emphasis on writing and speaking, which may include a
14 language other than English; and

15 (7) nine elective units. Only the following
16 elective units shall be counted toward meeting the
17 requirements for graduation: fine arts, i. e., music, band,
18 chorus and art; practical arts; physical education; languages
19 other than English; speech; drama; vocational education;
20 mathematics; science; English; R. O. T. C.; social science;
21 computer science; health education; American sign language;
22 and other electives approved by the state board.

23 With the approval of the local school board,
24 participation in a marching band, on an athletic team or in an
25 athletic sport during the school day may count toward

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[bracketed material] = delete

1 fulfillment of the physical education required unit.

2 C. Final examinations shall be administered to all
3 students in all classes offered for credit.

4 D. ~~[Beginning with students entering the ninth~~
5 ~~grade in the 1986-87 school year]~~ No student shall receive a
6 high school diploma who has not passed a state competency
7 examination in the subject areas of reading, English, math,
8 science and social science. ~~[Beginning with the 1996-97~~
9 ~~school year]~~ The state competency examinations on social
10 science shall include a section on the constitution of the
11 United States and the constitution of New Mexico. If a
12 student exits from the school system at the end of grade
13 twelve without having passed a state competency examination,
14 he shall receive an appropriate state certificate indicating
15 the number of credits earned and the grade completed. If
16 within five years after a student exits from the school system
17 he takes and passes the state competency examination, he may
18 receive a high school diploma.

19 E. The state board may establish a policy to
20 provide for administrative interpretations to clarify
21 curricular and testing provisions of the Public School
22 Code. "