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SENATE BILL 47

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

INTRODUCED BY

Richard M. Romero

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION; REMOVING CERTAIN GRADUATION  
REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS.

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

underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1 (1) four units in English, with major  
2 emphasis on grammar and literature;  
3 (2) three units in mathematics;  
4 (3) two units in science, one of which shall  
5 have a laboratory component;

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

9 (5) one unit in physical fitness;

10 [~~(6) one unit in communication skills, with~~  
11 ~~major emphasis on writing and speaking, which may include a~~  
12 ~~language other than English]~~ and

13 [~~(7) nine~~] (6) ten elective units. Only the  
14 following elective units shall be counted toward meeting the  
15 requirements for graduation: fine arts, i. e., music, band,  
16 chorus and art; practical arts; physical education; languages  
17 other than English; speech; drama; vocational education;  
18 mathematics; science; English; R. O. T. C.; social science;  
19 computer science; health education; American sign language;  
20 and other electives approved by the state board.

21 With the approval of the local school board,  
22 participation on an athletic team or in an athletic sport  
23 during the school day may count toward fulfillment of the  
24 physical education required unit.

25 [~~C. Final examinations shall be administered to~~

underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1 ~~all students in all classes offered for credit.~~

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

17 [~~E.~~] D. The state board may establish a policy  
18 to provide for administrative interpretations to clarify  
19 curricular and testing provisions of the Public School  
20 Code. "