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HOUSE BILL 295

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002

INTRODUCED BY

Marsha Atkin

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; INCREASING THE NUMBER OF REQUIRED GRADUATION UNITS; REQUIRING STUDENTS TO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE A UNIT OF PARENTING AND FAMILY LIVING IN NINTH OR TENTH GRADE; RECONCILING MULTIPLE AMENDMENTS TO THE LAW IN LAWS 2001.

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 by Laws 2001, Chapter 257, Section 1 and by Laws 2001, Chapter 276, Section 1) 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.

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1 B. Beginning with students entering the ninth
2 grade in the [~~1986-87~~] 2002-2003 school year, successful
3 completion of a minimum of [~~twenty-three~~] twenty-four units
4 shall be required for graduation. These units shall be as
5 follows:

6 (1) four units in English, with ~~major~~
7 ~~emphasis~~ on grammar and literature;

8 (2) three units in ~~mathematics~~;

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

11 (4) three units in social science, which
12 shall include United States history and geography, world
13 history and geography, and government and economics;

14 (5) one unit in physical fitness;

15 (6) one unit in communication skills, with
16 major emphasis on writing and speaking, which may include a
17 language other than English; [~~and~~]

18 (7) one unit in parenting and family living
19 in either the ninth or tenth grade, which shall include
20 instruction:

21 (a) to prepare students to understand
22 children's physical, mental, emotional and social growth and
23 development;

24 (b) on responsibility of parents for
25 children's care and guidance, with an emphasis on nutrition,

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1 emotional health and physical health; and

2 (c) on pregnancy prevention by focusing
3 on abstinence before marriage; and

4 [~~(7)~~] (8) nine elective units. Only the
5 following elective units shall be counted toward meeting the
6 requirements for graduation: fine arts, i. e., music, band,
7 chorus and art; practical arts; physical education; languages
8 other than English; speech; drama; vocational education;
9 mathematics; science; English; [~~R. O. T. C.~~] reserve officers'
10 training corps; social science; computer science; health
11 education; American sign language; and other electives
12 approved by the state board.

13 With the approval of the local school board,
14 participation in a marching band, on an athletic team or in an
15 athletic sport during the school day may count toward
16 fulfillment of the physical education required unit.

17 C. Final examinations shall be administered to all
18 students in all classes offered for credit.

19 D. No student shall receive a high school diploma
20 who has not passed a state [~~graduation~~] competency examination
21 in the subject areas of reading, English, math, writing,
22 science and social science. [~~Beginning with the 1996-97~~
23 ~~school year~~] The state [~~graduation~~] competency examinations on
24 social science shall include a section on the constitution of
25 the United States and the constitution of New Mexico. If a

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1 student exits from the school system at the end of grade
2 twelve without having passed a state [~~graduation~~] competency
3 examination, he shall receive an appropriate state certificate
4 indicating the number of credits earned and the grade
5 completed. If within five years after a student exits from
6 the school system he takes and passes the state [~~graduation~~]
7 competency examination, he may receive a high school diploma.

8 E. The state board may establish a policy to
9 provide for administrative interpretations to clarify
10 curricular and testing provisions of the Public School
11 Code. "

12 Section 2. REPEAL. -- Laws 2001, Chapter 257, Section 1
13 is repealed.