

**HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM AND EARLY
GRADUATION**

2005 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Sponsor: Bradley M. Daw

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill provides for additional high school curriculum and GED test provisions.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ provides for the establishment of a rigorous college preparation curriculum for high school students;
- ▶ provides a method for parents to choose between the college preparation curriculum and other curricula;
- ▶ encourages a meeting to select which curriculum the student will follow; and
- ▶ requires the State Board of Education to apply to GED to allow enrolled high school students to take the GED test.

Monies Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

ENACTS:

53A-1-402.7, Utah Code Annotated 1953

53A-1-612, Utah Code Annotated 1953



28 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

29 Section 1. Section **53A-1-402.7** is enacted to read:

30 **53A-1-402.7. High School Curriculum.**

31 (1) In accordance with Title 63, Chapter 46a, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the
32 State Board of Education shall make rules to:

33 (a) establish a rigorous college preparation curriculum, in addition to the core
34 curriculum required by Sections 53A-1-402 and 53A-1-402.6; and

35 (b) require a school district to provide the college preparation curriculum to all high
36 school students, except for a student whose parent or guardian indicates in writing a preference
37 for the student to pursue a curriculum other than the college preparation curriculum.

38 (2) The State Board of Education shall encourage a school district to convene a
39 meeting prior to or during a student's ninth grade year to discuss the best curriculum path based
40 on the student's needs, involving:

41 (a) the student;

42 (b) the student's parent or guardian;

43 (c) the student's teacher; and

44 (d) any other appropriate school officials, including the principal and counselors.

45 Section 2. Section **53A-1-612** is enacted to read:

46 **53A-1-612. General Educational Development Test.**

47 (1) As used in this section, "GED test" means the General Educational Development
48 test developed by the American Council on Education and administered by the General
49 Educational Development Testing Service.

50 (2) The State Board of Education shall submit an application to the General
51 Educational Development Testing Service to request that students who are currently enrolled in
52 high school, including students who excel academically, be allowed to take the GED test.

Legislative Review Note

as of 2-14-05 11:14 AM

Based on a limited legal review, this legislation has not been determined to have a high probability of being held unconstitutional.

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel

AMENDED NOTE

State Impact

Provisions of this bill establish a college preparation curriculum, in addition to the core curriculum currently offered. These provisions may require the support and assessment of two curriculum programs. Curriculum and assessment standards for subject areas not currently assessed through the U-PASS system may need to be developed. Based on cost estimates for current U-PASS assessments, it may cost approximately \$1,000,000 to develop each additional curriculum based assessment.

It is unknown exactly how many students may choose an alternative curriculum or the number of additional curriculum and assessment standards that may be needed to implement the provisions of this bill. Assuming that the development and implementation of the curriculum provisions detailed in the bill do not require additional completion time by students and teachers than the current curriculum standards, implementation may be handled within existing budget allocations.

Further, provisions in the bill may enable students enrolled in high school to take the General Educational Development (GED) test. It is unknown exactly what impact this may have on number and amount of fee waiver applications in the school districts.

Individual and Business Impact

No fiscal impact
