LEGISLATIVE GENERAL COUNSEL
₵ Approved for Filing: D.S Larsen ₵
₵ 02-10-06 5:51 PM ₵

S.B. 56
1st Sub. (Green)

Senator D. Chris Buttars proposes the following substitute bill:

SECONDARY SCHOOL AMENDMENTS

2006 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: D. Chris Buttars

House Sponsor: Margaret Dayton

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill establishes requirements for the acceptance of credits awarded by schools and the Electronic High School and establishes requirements for the Electronic High School.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▸ requires a public school to:
  - accept credits awarded to students by certain accredited schools; and
  - accept credits for both transfer students and students enrolled in the school who take courses offered by other public or private schools;
- ▸ requires the Electronic High School to offer:
  - courses in an open entry/open exit format; and
  - core curriculum courses that conform to course standards and objectives established by the board;
- ▸ requires public schools and school districts to:
  - accept all credits earned through the Electronic High School; and
  - apply credits awarded for a core curriculum course toward fulfillment of core curriculum requirements;

- establishes eligibility requirements for enrollment in the Electronic High School and for the award of diplomas by the Electronic High School;
- provides that Utah students may take Electronic High School courses free of charge and nonresidents may take courses for a fee set by the State Board of Education;
- provides that students with disabilities seeking to enroll in the Utah Electronic High School may request appropriate accommodations; and
- defines terms.

Monies Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

ENACTS:

53A-13-108.5, Utah Code Annotated 1953

53A-15-1001, Utah Code Annotated 1953

53A-15-1002, Utah Code Annotated 1953

53A-15-1003, Utah Code Annotated 1953

53A-15-1004, Utah Code Annotated 1953

53A-15-1005, Utah Code Annotated 1953

53A-15-1006, Utah Code Annotated 1953

53A-15-1007, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

Section 1. Section **53A-13-108.5** is enacted to read:

53A-13-108.5. Acceptance of credits awarded by accredited schools.

(1) Ĥ→ **(a)** ←Ĥ A public school shall accept credits Ĥ→ **and grades** ←Ĥ awarded to a student by a school accredited or approved by the State Board of Education or accredited or recognized by the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools as issued by the school, without alterations.

Ĥ→ **(b) Credits awarded for a core curriculum course shall be applied to fulfilling core curriculum requirements.** ←Ĥ

(2) Subsection (1) applies to credits awarded to a student who:

(a) transfers to a public school; or

(b) while enrolled in the public school, takes courses offered by another public or

private school.

(3) Subsection (1) applies to:

(a) traditional classes in which an instructor is present in the classroom and the student is required to attend the class for a particular length of time;

(b) open entry/open exit classes in which the student has the flexibility to begin or end study at any time, progress through course material at his own pace, and demonstrate competency when knowledge and skills have been mastered;

(c) courses offered over the Internet; or

(d) distance learning courses.

Section 2. Section **53A-15-1001** is enacted to read:

Part 10. Electronic High School Act

53A-15-1001. Title.

This part is known as the "Electronic High School Act."

Section 3. Section **53A-15-1002** is enacted to read:

53A-15-1002. Definitions.

As used in this part:

(1) "Board" means the State Board of Education.

(2) "Electronic High School" means a rigorous program offering grade 9 - 12 level courses delivered over the Internet and coordinated by the board.

(3) "Home-schooled student" means a student:

(a) who attends a home school;

(b) is exempt from school attendance pursuant to Section 53A-11-102; and

(c) attends no more than two regularly scheduled classes or courses in a public school per semester.

(4) "Open-entry, open-exit" means:

(a) a method of instructional delivery that allows for flexible scheduling in response to individual student needs or requirements and demonstrated competency when knowledge and skills have been mastered; and

(b) students have the flexibility to begin or end study at any time, progress through course material at their own pace, and demonstrate competency when knowledge and skills have been mastered.

Section 4. Section **53A-15-1003** is enacted to read:

53A-15-1003. Courses and credit.

(1) The Electronic High School shall:

(a) offer courses in an open-entry, open-exit format; and

(b) offer core curriculum courses that are in conformance with course standards and objectives established by the board.

(2) Public schools shall:

(a) accept all credits awarded to students by the Electronic High School; and

(b) apply credits awarded for a core curriculum course toward the fulfillment of core curriculum requirements.

Section 5. Section **53A-15-1004** is enacted to read:

53A-15-1004. Student eligibility for enrollment.

(1) Utah students at any age or in any grade may enroll in Electronic High School courses.

(2) The Electronic High School shall accept students into courses on a first-come first-served basis.

Section 6. Section **53A-15-1005** is enacted to read:

53A-15-1005. Services to students with disabilities.

Students with disabilities who may need additional services or resources and who seek to enroll in Electronic High School classes may request appropriate accommodations through the students' assigned schools or school districts.

Section 7. Section **53A-15-1006** is enacted to read:

53A-15-1006. Student fees or tuition.

(1) Electronic High School courses are provided to students who are Utah residents, as defined in Section 53A-2-201, free of charge.

(2) Nonresident students may enroll in Electronic High School courses for a fee set by the board, provided that the course can accommodate additional students.

Section 8. Section **53A-15-1007** is enacted to read:

53A-15-1007. Electronic High School diploma.

The Electronic High School may award a diploma to a student that meets any of the following criteria upon the student's completion of high school graduation requirements set by

the board:

(1) a home-schooled student;

(2) a student who has dropped out of school and whose original high school class has graduated; or

(3) a student who is identified by the student's resident school district as ineligible for graduation from a traditional high school program for specific reasons.

Fiscal Note

Bill Number SB0056S01

Secondary School Amendments

14-Feb-06
4:24 PM

State Impact

Any costs associated with enactment of this bill can be handled within existing budgets.

Individual and Business Impact

None

Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst