

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION AMENDMENTS

2007 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Mark B. Madsen

House Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill allows a public school student or home school student to receive a diploma based on certain assessment results.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

▶ allows a student enrolled in a high school in the state or attending a home school in the state to receive a high school diploma if the student passes the basic skills competency test and receives certain scores on the ACT.

Monies Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

53A-1-611, as last amended by Chapter 7, Laws of Utah 2002, Fifth Special Session

ENACTS:

53A-15-104, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

Section 1. Section **53A-1-611** is amended to read:



28 **53A-1-611. Standards and assessment processes to measure student performance**
29 **-- Basic skills competency test.**

30 (1) The Legislature recognizes the need for the State Board of Education to develop
31 and implement standards and assessment processes to ensure that student progress is measured
32 and that school boards and school personnel are accountable.

33 (2) (a) In addition to its responsibilities under Sections 53A-1-603 through 53A-1-605,
34 the State Board of Education, through the state superintendent of public instruction, shall
35 design a basic skills competency test to be administered in the tenth grade.

36 (b) A student must pass the basic skills competency test, in addition to the established
37 requirements of the state and local board of education of the district in which the student
38 attends school, in order to receive a basic high school diploma of graduation.

39 (c) The state board shall include in the test, at a minimum, components on English
40 language arts and reading and mathematics.

41 (d) A student who fails to pass all components of the test may not receive a basic high
42 school diploma but may receive a certificate of completion or alternative completion diploma
43 under rules made by the State Board of Education in accordance with Title 63, Chapter 46a,
44 Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act.

45 (e) The state board shall make rules:

46 (i) to allow students who initially fail the test to retake all or part of the test; and

47 (ii) that take into account and are consistent with federal law relating to students with
48 disabilities in the administration of the test.

49 (3) The state board shall implement the tenth grade basic skills competency test, no
50 later than the beginning of the 2003-04 school year.

51 (4) The requirements of this section are to be complementary to the other achievement
52 testing provisions of this part.

53 (5) (a) A student who attends a home school may take the basic skills competency test
54 at a school within the student's school district of residence at the same regularly scheduled time
55 the test is administered to public school students.

56 (b) No age restrictions shall apply to home school students to take the basic skills
57 competency test.

58 Section 2. Section **53A-15-104** is enacted to read:

59 **53A-15-104.** Diploma awarded to public school and home school students based
60 on assessments.

61 (1) A student enrolled in a high school in this state and a student that attends a home
62 school shall, upon request of the student's parent or guardian, receive a diploma issued by the
63 State Board of Education, if the student:

64 (a) passes the basic skills competency test provided by Section 53A-1-611; and

65 (b) receives a score on each ACT subtest that ranks in the top 15% of Utah students'
66 scores for the subtest.

67 (2) (a) Subsection (1)(b) does not apply to the ACT optional writing subtest.

68 (b) A student may satisfy the requirement in Subsection (1)(b) with subtest scores from
69 different administrations of the ACT.

70 (3) A diploma issued by the State Board of Education pursuant to this section shall
71 indicate the recipient has met state high school graduation requirements by demonstrating
72 mastery of knowledge and skills through assessments.

Legislative Review Note
as of 12-21-06 9:51 AM

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel

S.B. 57 - High School Graduation Amendments

Fiscal Note

2007 General Session

State of Utah

State Impact

Enactment of this bill will not require additional appropriations. It may require additional State Board of Education staff time to verify test scores and issue diplomas which would require some changes in job priorities among staff.

Individual, Business and/or Local Impact

Enactment of this bill likely will not result in direct, measurable costs and/or benefits for individuals, businesses, or local governments.

1/29/2007, 11:50:45 AM, Lead Analyst: Leishman, B.

Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst