

**Senator Mark B. Madsen** proposes the following substitute bill:

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION AMENDMENTS**

2007 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Mark B. Madsen**

House Sponsor: Michael T. Morley

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill allows a student who resides in Utah to receive a diploma based on certain assessment results.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

▶ allows a student who resides in Utah 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

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



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

27 **53A-1-611. Standards and assessment processes to measure student performance**  
28 **-- Basic skills competency test.**

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

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

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

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

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

44 (e) The state board shall make rules:

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

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

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

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

52 (5) No age restrictions shall apply to students to take the basic skills competency test.

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

54 **53A-15-104. Diploma awarded to Utah students based on assessments.**

55 (1) A student who resides in Utah shall, upon request of the student's parent or  
56 guardian, receive a diploma issued by the State Board of Education, if the student:

57 (a) passes the basic skills competency test provided by Section 53A-1-611; and  
58 (b) receives a score on each ACT subtest that ranks in the top 15% of Utah students'  
59 scores for the subtest.

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

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

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

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**S.B. 57 1st Sub. (Green) - High School Graduation Amendments**

**Fiscal Note**

2007 General Session

State of Utah

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**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.

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**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.

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