

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 228—ASSEMBLYMEN LA RUE HATCH, GONZÁLEZ; ANDERSON, BROWN-MAY, D’SILVA, GURR, KASAMA, BRITTNEY MILLER AND THOMAS

MARCH 1, 2023

Referred to Committee on Education

SUMMARY—Revises provisions governing required courses in high school. (BDR 34-572)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact. Effect on the State: Yes.

CONTAINS UNFUNDED MANDATE (§ 1) (NOT REQUESTED BY AFFECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENT)

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to education; revising requirements relating to social studies courses in high school; requiring the adoption of certain regulations prescribing the requirements to receive a standard high school diploma; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

- 1 Existing law requires each pupil enrolled in a public high school to enroll in at
- 2 least three units of credit in social studies, including, without limitation: (1) one-
- 3 half unit of credit in American government; (2) two units of credit in American
- 4 history, world history or geography; and (3) one-half unit of credit in economics.
- 5 (NRS 389.018) Beginning in the 2028-2029 school year, this bill: (1) increases the
- 6 required enrollment in social studies from at least three units of credit to at least
- 7 four units of credit; and (2) additionally requires the completion of one unit of
- 8 credit in geography.
- 9 Existing regulations of the State Board of Education require a pupil to complete
- 10 1 unit of credit in American government and 1 unit of credit in American history in
- 11 order to receive a standard high school diploma. Existing regulations do not require
- 12 a pupil to complete credit in economics, world history or geography to receive a
- 13 standard high school diploma. (NAC 390.440) **Section 2** of this bill requires the
- 14 State Board to adopt regulations as soon as possible to update the requirements to
- 15 receive a standard high school diploma to reflect the requirements prescribed by
- 16 existing law. **Section 2** also requires the State Board to adopt regulations on or
- 17 before July 1, 2025, to update those requirements to reflect the revisions made by



18 **section 1** of this bill, without increasing the total number of credits required to
19 receive a standard high school diploma.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 **Section 1.** NRS 389.018 is hereby amended to read as follows:

2 389.018 1. The following subjects are designated as the core
3 academic subjects that must be taught, as applicable for grade
4 levels, in all public schools, the Caliente Youth Center, the Nevada
5 Youth Training Center and any other state facility for the detention
6 of children that is operated pursuant to title 5 of NRS:

7 (a) English language arts;

8 (b) Mathematics;

9 (c) Science; and

10 (d) Social studies, which includes only the subjects of history,
11 geography, economics, civics, financial literacy and multicultural
12 education.

13 2. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a pupil
14 enrolled in a public high school must enroll in a minimum of:

15 (a) Four units of credit in English language arts;

16 (b) Four units of credit in mathematics, including, without
17 limitation, Algebra I and geometry, or an equivalent course of study
18 that integrates Algebra I and geometry;

19 (c) Three units of credit in science, including two laboratory
20 courses; and

21 (d) ~~Three~~ **Four** units of credit in social studies, including,
22 without limitation:

23 (1) One-half unit of credit in American government;

24 (2) ~~Two units~~ **One unit** of credit in American history ~~1~~;

25 (3) **One unit of credit in** world history ~~1~~;

26 (4) **One unit of credit in** geography; and

27 ~~(3)~~ (5) One-half unit of credit in economics.

28 ↪ A pupil is not required to enroll in the courses of study and
29 credits required by this subsection if the pupil, the parent or legal
30 guardian of the pupil and an administrator or a counselor at the
31 school in which the pupil is enrolled mutually agree to a modified
32 course of study for the pupil and that modified course of study
33 satisfies at least the requirements for a standard high school
34 diploma, an adjusted diploma or an alternative diploma, as
35 applicable. A school district may authorize one or more public high
36 schools in the school district to offer a combined course in
37 American government and economics for one unit of credit which
38 satisfies the requirements of subparagraphs (1) and ~~(3)~~ (5) if the



1 curriculum of an advanced placement course is used for American
2 government in the combined course.

3 3. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, in addition
4 to the core academic subjects, the following subjects must be taught
5 as applicable for grade levels and to the extent practicable in all
6 public schools, the Caliente Youth Center, the Nevada Youth
7 Training Center and any other state facility for the detention of
8 children that is operated pursuant to title 5 of NRS:

- 9 (a) The arts;
- 10 (b) Computer education and technology;
- 11 (c) Health; and
- 12 (d) Physical education.

13 ↪ If the State Board requires the completion of course work in a
14 subject area set forth in this subsection for graduation from high
15 school or promotion to the next grade, a public school shall offer the
16 required course work. Except as otherwise provided for a course of
17 study in health prescribed by subsection 1 of NRS 389.021 and the
18 instruction prescribed by subsection 1 of NRS 389.064, unless a
19 subject is required for graduation from high school or promotion to
20 the next grade, a charter school is not required to comply with this
21 subsection.

22 4. Instruction in health and physical education provided
23 pursuant to subsection 3 must include, without limitation,
24 instruction concerning the importance of annual physical
25 examinations by a provider of health care and the appropriate
26 response to unusual aches and pains.

27 **Sec. 2.** 1. As soon as possible after the effective date of this
28 section, the State Board of Education shall adopt regulations
29 pursuant to NRS 390.600 that, at a minimum, require a pupil to
30 successfully earn the units of credit in which a pupil is required to
31 enroll by subsection 2 of NRS 389.018, as that section exists on the
32 effective date of this section, to receive a standard high school
33 diploma.

34 2. On or before July 1, 2025, the State Board of Education
35 shall adopt regulations pursuant to NRS 390.600 that, at a
36 minimum, require a pupil to successfully earn the units of credit in
37 which a pupil is required to enroll by subsection 2 of NRS 389.018,
38 as amended by section 1 of this act, to receive a standard high
39 school diploma. Those regulations must not increase the total
40 number of credits that a pupil must complete to receive a standard
41 high school diploma.

42 **Sec. 3.** The provisions of NRS 354.599 do not apply to any
43 additional expenses of a local government that are related to the
44 provisions of this act.



1 **Sec. 4.** 1. This section and sections 2 and 3 of this act
2 become effective upon passage and approval.

3 2. Section 1 of this act becomes effective:

4 (a) Upon passage and approval for the purpose of adopting any
5 regulations and performing any other preparatory administrative
6 tasks that are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act; and

7 (b) On July 1, 2028, for all other purposes.

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