



2009 ASSEMBLY BILL 236

April 29, 2009 – Introduced by Representatives RADCLIFFE, DANOU, BERCEAU, POPE-ROBERTS, DAVIS, HILGENBERG, RIPP, A. OTT, NERISON, LOTHIAN, TAUCHEN, SPANBAUER, MOLEPSKE JR., JORGENSEN, GUNDERSON, HIXSON and VRUWINK, cosponsored by Senators VINEHOUT, TAYLOR, OLSEN, HANSEN and KEDZIE. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 **AN ACT to amend** 118.33 (1) (am) of the statutes; **relating to:** requiring that
2 certain high school agriculture courses be counted as science credits.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, a school board may not grant a high school diploma to any pupil unless the pupil has earned, in grades 9 to 12, at least four credits of English, three credits of social studies, two credits of mathematics, two credits of science, and 1.5 credits of physical education.

This bill provides that, if a pupil earns at least two credits in science, the school board must award the pupil an additional science credit for completing in grades 9 to 12 each course in agriculture that the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) has determined qualifies as science according to criteria established by DPI.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

3 **SECTION 1.** 118.33 (1) (am) of the statutes is amended to read:
4 118.33 (1) (am) The state superintendent shall encourage school boards to
5 require an additional 8.5 credits selected from any combination of vocational
6 education, foreign languages, fine arts and other courses. If a pupil earns at least

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1 2 credits of science in the high school grades, the school board shall award the pupil
2 an additional science credit for completing in the high school grades each course in
3 agriculture that the department has determined qualifies as science according to
4 criteria established by the department. The credits in science under par. (a) 1. need
5 not be completed before an agriculture course under this paragraph.

6 **SECTION 2. Initial applicability.**

7 (1) This act first applies to agriculture courses completed during the 2009-10
8 school year.

9 (END)