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SENATE BILL 665

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001

INTRODUCED BY

Pete Campos

AN ACT

**RELATING TO EDUCATION; EXPANDING THE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
TO INCLUDE PASSING A STATE COMPETENCY EXAMINATION IN WRITING.**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

**Section 1. Section 22-2-8.4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1986,
Chapter 33, Section 5, as amended) is amended to read:**

"22-2-8.4. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS. --

**A. At the end of the eighth grade or during the
ninth grade, each student shall prepare an individual program
of study for grades nine through twelve. The program of study
shall be signed by a student's parent or guardian.**

**B. Beginning with students entering the ninth
grade in the 1986-87 school year, successful completion of a
minimum of twenty-three units shall be required for
graduation. These units shall be as follows:**

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

- 1 (1) four units in English, with major
2 emphasis on grammar and literature;
- 3 (2) three units in mathematics;
- 4 (3) two units in science, one of which shall
5 have a laboratory component;
- 6 (4) three units in social science, which
7 shall include United States history and geography, world
8 history and geography, and government and economics;
- 9 (5) one unit in physical fitness;
- 10 (6) one unit in communication skills, with
11 major emphasis on writing and speaking, which may include a
12 language other than English; and
- 13 (7) nine elective units. Only the following
14 elective units shall be counted toward meeting the
15 requirements for graduation: fine arts, i. e., music, band,
16 chorus and art; practical arts; physical education; languages
17 other than English; speech; drama; vocational education;
18 mathematics; science; English; R. O. T. C.; social science;
19 computer science; health education; American sign language;
20 and other electives approved by the state board.

21 With the approval of the local school board,
22 participation on an athletic team or in an athletic sport
23 during the school day may count toward fulfillment of the
24 physical education required unit.

25 C. Final examinations shall be administered to all

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 students in all classes offered for credit.

2 D. ~~[Beginning with students entering the ninth~~
3 ~~grade in the 1986-87 school year]~~ No student shall receive a
4 high school diploma who has not passed a state ~~[competency]~~
5 graduation examination in the subject areas of reading,
6 English, math, writing, science and social science. Beginning
7 with the 1996-97 school year, the state ~~[competency]~~
8 graduation examinations on social science shall include a
9 section on the constitution of the United States and the
10 constitution of New Mexico. If a student exits from the
11 school system at the end of grade twelve without having passed
12 a state ~~[competency]~~ graduation examination, he shall receive
13 an appropriate state certificate indicating the number of
14 credits earned and the grade completed. If within five years
15 after a student exits from the school system he takes and
16 passes the state ~~[competency]~~ graduation examination, he may
17 receive a high school diploma.

18 E. The state board may establish a policy to
19 provide for administrative interpretations to clarify
20 curricular and testing provisions of the Public School
21 Code. "