
DIGEST

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Thompson

HB No. 1115

Abstract: Authorizes BESE to designate course equivalencies for Civics for the purpose of aligning graduation requirements with TOPS core curriculum requirements in social studies and provides relative to social studies course options in such core curriculum.

Present law requires all public high schools to give instruction in Civics and Free Enterprise as a prerequisite to graduation. Requires that instruction in Civics be given for two semesters, equal to one unit of credit, and include a section on Free Enterprise.

Proposed law authorizes the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education, notwithstanding present law, to designate course equivalencies for Civics in order to ensure the alignment of graduation requirements with the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) core curriculum requirements for social studies.

Present law provides for TOPS as a program of merit scholarships for students attending certain postsecondary education institutions who meet specific grade point average, ACT score, and core curriculum requirements and certain other qualifications. Provides that students graduating from high school during the 2017-18 school year and thereafter, in addition to meeting other eligibility requirements, must successfully complete 19 units of specified course work that constitutes a core curriculum, including four units in social studies. Proposed law retains the course names and total number of units for social studies but revises the number of units for certain courses, as follows:

Present law requires:

- (1) One unit of U.S. History, AP US History, or IB US History.
- (2) Two units chosen from the following: Western Civilization, European History, or AP European History; World Geography, AP Human Geography, or IB Geography; World History, AP World History, or World History IB; History of Religion; IB Economics.

Proposed law retains present law in (1) and (2).

Present law requires ½ unit of Government, AP US Government and Politics: Comparative, or AP US Government and Politics: United States and ½ unit of Economics, AP Macroeconomics, or AP Microeconomics; authorizes one unit of Civics as an alternative to completing two of these ½-unit courses. Proposed law revises present law to provide for one unit of any of these courses and retains the option of the substitution of one unit of Civics.

(Amends R.S. 17:274.1(A) and (B)(1) and 3048.1(A)(1)(f)(iv))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill.

1. Authorizes BESE to designate course equivalencies for Civics for the purpose of aligning graduation requirements with TOPS requirements.
2. Relative to the high school core curriculum required for TOPS eligibility:
 - (a) Deletes proposed law that would have reduced the number of social studies units a student must complete from four to three and ½ if he completes certain AP courses.
 - (b) Retains the present law course names and overall number of units students must complete in social studies but changes the authorized distribution of units among government and economics courses.