

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE BILL NO. 944

BY REPRESENTATIVE FANNIN AND SENATOR KOSTELKA

CURRICULA: Provides relative to the high school career option program

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:183.1(A) and (C)(2), 183.2, 183.3(A)(2), (B), (C), and (D),
3 and 2925 and to enact R.S. 17:183.1(D), relative to the high school career option
4 program; to provide relative to requirements for a career major and related course
5 work; to provide that a career diploma be considered and recognized by all public
6 postsecondary education institutions and given the same status as a regular diploma
7 for purposes of the school and district accountability system; to provide relative to
8 conditions to be met by a student pursuing a career major curriculum; to delete the
9 requirement for parental consent for a student to pursue such curriculum; to delete
10 certain requirements relative to pupil progression plans; to provide relative to
11 requirements for Individual Graduation Plans for students; and to provide for related
12 matters.

13 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

14 Section 1. R.S. 17:183.1(A) and (C)(2), 183.2, 183.3(A)(2), (B), (C), and (D), and
15 2925 are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 17:183.1(D) is hereby enacted to read as
16 follows:

17 §183.1. Purpose

18 A. The purpose of this Subpart is to create a career option in Louisiana's high
19 schools which shall consist of ~~an academic major comprised of college preparatory~~
20 ~~courses and~~ a career major comprised of challenging academic courses and modern
21 ~~vocational~~ career and technical studies.

22 * * *

CODING: Words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law; words underscored are additions.

1 C.

2 * * *

3 (2) A career diploma earned through a career major program and issued by
4 the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall be considered a
5 regular standard diploma and shall be recognized by all Louisiana public
6 postsecondary education institutions ~~under the management and supervision of the~~
7 ~~Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges.~~

8 D. A career diploma issued to a student pursuant to this Subpart shall be
9 given the same status and recognition for purposes of calculations made pursuant to
10 the school and district accountability system required by R.S. 17:10.1, as is given a
11 regular standard diploma issued by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
12 Education. A school or school system shall not be penalized in any manner for
13 students who are issued a career diploma.

14 §183.2. Career option description

15 A. To prepare students for choosing a career option at the high school level,
16 in grades six through eight, ~~teachers~~ schools shall incorporate activities which expose
17 students to career and technical and academic fields of study. Such activities may
18 include field trips, guest speakers, community services, and other activities ~~such as~~
19 ~~word processing, desktop production, computer-assisted drafting and graphics, and~~
20 ~~other uses of technology~~ designed to introduce students to occupations in demand in
21 Louisiana. At least six activities shall be conducted at each grade level during each
22 school year. ~~Each teacher of grades six through eight shall maintain records of such~~
23 ~~activities.~~

24 ~~B.(1) By the end of the eighth grade, each student shall develop, with the~~
25 ~~input of his family, a Five Year Individual Graduation Plan. Such a plan shall~~
26 ~~include a sequence of courses which is consistent with the student's stated goals for~~
27 ~~one year after graduation. Each student's Five Year Individual Graduation Plan shall~~
28 ~~be reviewed annually thereafter by the student, parents, and school advisor and~~
29 ~~revised as needed.~~

1 B.(1) Students in a career major program shall complete an academic core
2 of courses and a career and technical sequence of courses or approved training
3 programs that lead to an approved industry-based credential.

4 (2) The course requirements for the career major shall consist of the
5 following:

6 (a) At least four English credits, including one credit of English I, one credit
7 of English II and two additional ~~courses comparable or identical to English courses~~
8 ~~offered by the Louisiana Technical College, as credits approved by the State Board~~
9 ~~of Elementary and Secondary Education.~~

10 (b) At least four mathematics credits, including one credit of Algebra I,
11 ~~Algebra I Part One, and Algebra I Part Two, or an applied or hybrid Algebra course,~~
12 ~~and additional applied or hybrid mathematics courses comparable or identical to~~
13 ~~courses offered by the Louisiana Technical College as needed to fulfill the~~
14 ~~mathematics course requirements~~ one credit of Geometry, and two additional
15 mathematics credits as approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
16 Education.

17 (c) At least ~~three~~ two science credits, including one ~~unit~~ credit of Biology I
18 and ~~two~~ one additional ~~courses~~ science credit ~~selected from a list of science courses~~
19 ~~related to the student's chosen career major~~ as approved by the State Board of
20 Elementary and Secondary Education.

21 (d) At least ~~three~~ two social studies credits, including one ~~unit of American~~
22 ~~credit of United States~~ History and one ~~additional course selected from a list of~~
23 ~~social studies courses approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary~~
24 ~~Education. Each student shall successfully complete coursework in~~ credit of Civics.
25 ~~and Free Enterprise, as provided in R.S. 17:274.1~~ One-half credit of economics and
26 one-half credit of government may substitute for one credit of Civics.

27 (e) At least two credits in Health and Physical Education.

28 (f) ~~At least seven credits in~~ A series of career and technical education
29 courses or approved programs with end-of-course testing as appropriate and leading

1 ~~to a work or postsecondary education credential~~ approved by the State Board of
2 Elementary and Secondary Education ~~; including at least one-half credit in a career~~
3 ~~readiness course and one credit in a computer applications course. Courses shall be~~
4 ~~selected to prepare a student for postsecondary education or a career.~~

5 (g) Additional electives or career and technical education courses required
6 by the city, parish, or other local public school board ~~as~~ and approved by the State
7 Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

8 ~~(3) The questions included in any end-of-course examination administered~~
9 ~~to students pursuing a career major program and curriculum as provided in this~~
10 ~~Section, the passage of which is required for high school graduation, shall be~~
11 ~~constructed in a manner that reflects course design and content and the method of~~
12 ~~instruction employed for the course.~~

13 C. Each city, parish, and other local public school board ~~seeking to establish~~
14 ~~a career major~~ shall submit a proposed curriculum to the State Board of Elementary
15 and Secondary Education for approval. Such curriculum shall comply with the
16 provisions of Subsection B of this Section and the provisions of R.S. 17:261 through
17 280.

18 D.~~(†)~~ A student who seeks to pursue a career major curriculum ~~must~~ shall
19 meet one of the following conditions:

20 ~~(a)(1) The student has~~ Has fulfilled all of the requirements established by the
21 State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the city, parish, or other
22 local public school board where the student is enrolled for promotion to ~~the ninth~~
23 ~~grade~~ high school.

24 ~~(b)(i) The student is at least fifteen years of age, or will attain the age of~~
25 ~~fifteen during the next school year, scored at least at the approaching basic level on~~
26 ~~either the English/Language Arts or Mathematics component of the eighth grade~~
27 ~~Louisiana Educational Assessment Program test, and meets the objective criteria~~
28 ~~established by the pupil progression plan of the city, parish, or other local public~~

1 school system where the student is enrolled to enter the ninth grade for the purpose
2 of pursuing a career major curriculum.

3 (ii) ~~Prior to entering the ninth grade, such student must complete a summer~~
4 ~~remediation program in the subject area of any component of the eighth grade~~
5 ~~Louisiana Educational Assessment Program test on which the student scored at the~~
6 ~~unsatisfactory level, as established by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary~~
7 ~~Education. Any such student who fails to satisfactorily complete a summer~~
8 ~~remediation program shall be required to complete any approved developmental~~
9 ~~course or courses, for credit, as may be deemed necessary to ensure that the student~~
10 ~~is prepared to undertake the coursework required for his chosen career major.~~

11 (iii) ~~The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall certify~~
12 ~~that the pupil progression plan established by each city, parish, or other local public~~
13 ~~school system that promotes a student to the ninth grade pursuant to this~~
14 ~~Subparagraph contains the following requirements:~~

15 (aa) ~~Such student, at a minimum, must have achieved a cumulative grade~~
16 ~~point average of at least 1.5 on a 4.0 scale for coursework required for completion~~
17 ~~of the eighth grade.~~

18 (bb) ~~Such student must have demonstrated acceptable attendance and~~
19 ~~behavior standards as determined by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary~~
20 ~~Education.~~

21 (cc) ~~Such student must participate, during his first year in high school, in a~~
22 ~~dropout prevention and mentoring program developed in consultation with school~~
23 ~~guidance personnel, as approved by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary~~
24 ~~Education.~~

25 (2) ~~Every student who seeks to pursue a career major must have the written~~
26 ~~permission of his parent or other legal guardian, after consultation with the school~~
27 ~~guidance counselor or other school administrator and a determination that~~
28 ~~participation in a career major curriculum and pursuit of a career diploma issued by~~

1 postsecondary goals. Each student's ~~individual graduation plan~~ Individual
 2 Graduation Plan shall include the recommended sequence of courses for successful
 3 completion of ~~his chosen major a standard diploma that aligns with postsecondary~~
 4 ~~education, training, and the workforce~~ and shall be reviewed annually and updated
 5 or revised as needed.

6 (3) (4) The Individual Graduation Plan ~~Individual graduation plans~~ shall be
 7 sufficiently flexible to allow ~~students~~ the student to change ~~their~~ his program of
 8 study, yet be sufficiently structured to ensure that ~~a~~ the student will meet the high
 9 school graduation requirements for his chosen major and be qualified for admission
 10 to a postsecondary education institution or to enter the workforce.

11 (4) (5) Each student's ~~individual graduation plan~~ Individual Graduation Plan
 12 shall be signed by the student, ~~and~~ his parent or other legal ~~guardian, custodian, and~~
 13 the school counselor.

14 B. To provide a foundation for the development of ~~individual graduation~~
 15 ~~plans~~ the Individual Graduation Plan, schools shall provide career awareness and
 16 exploration activities to all students in grades six through eight that create linkages
 17 between what a student does in school and what he wants to achieve in life. Such
 18 activities shall include career interest inventories and information to assist them in
 19 the career decisionmaking process and may include job shadowing, job mentoring,
 20 and job internships.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Fannin

HB No. 944

Abstract: Provides relative to the high school career option program including requirements for a career major and related course work. Provides that a career diploma be considered and recognized by all public postsecondary education institutions and treated the same as a regular diploma for purposes of the school and district accountability system. Provides relative to requirements for Individual Graduation Plans.

Present law relative to the high school career option program, provides for an academic major (college prep. courses) and a career major (academic courses and modern vocational studies). Proposed law deletes the reference to an academic major.

Present law requires the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to develop and adopt requirements for career major programs offered by school boards and to issue a career diploma to students who successfully complete such requirements. Provides that a career diploma is considered a regular standard diploma and is recognized by institutions under the Board of Supervisors of Community and Technical Colleges (LCTCS board). Proposed law retains present law except provides that a career diploma shall be recognized by all La. public postsecondary education institutions. Adds that a career diploma be given the same status and recognition for purposes of calculations of the school and district accountability system as is given a regular standard diploma and prohibits a school or school system from being penalized in any manner for students who are issued a career diploma.

Present law requires public school systems to develop and offer at least one career major program, subject to BESE approval, and provides that any such system may be granted a waiver by BESE for good cause. Proposed law instead requires such program to be developed and offered by school boards pursuant to BESE policy and deletes the waiver allowance.

Present law requires students in a career major program to complete an academic core of courses and a career and technical sequence of courses and specifies course requirements.

Proposed law provides for various changes to and retentions of the career major course requirements and allows for the completion of approved training programs that lead to an approved industry-based credential in lieu of a career and technical sequence of courses.

Present law requires a student seeking to pursue a career major curriculum to meet one of the following conditions:

- (1) Has fulfilled all requirements established by BESE and the local public school board for promotion to 9th grade.
- (2) Is at least 15 or will turn 15 during the upcoming school year and has scored at least approaching basic on certain LEAP tests and meets criteria established by the local school system's pupil progression plan to enter the 9th grade to pursue a career major curriculum. Such student must also complete a summer remediation program in the subject area of any LEAP test component on which he scored at the unsatisfactory level. A student who fails to satisfactorily complete summer remediation must complete developmental courses (for credit) necessary to be prepared to undertake the course work required for his chosen career major.

Requires BESE to certify that the pupil progression plan of each local school system that promotes a student who did not meet 8th grade LEAP standards to the 9th grade contains specified requirements. Requires a student to have written permission of his parent or legal guardian after consultation with a guidance counselor or school administrator and a determination that participation in a career major curriculum and pursuit of a career diploma is appropriate and in the student's best interest.

Proposed law deletes present law condition (2) above and instead requires that a student have fulfilled or be on track to fulfill all of the course requirements as specified in present law and proposed law. Adds a condition that a student may meet the entry or admission requirements set forth in the chosen career major program. Deletes requirements that BESE certify pupil progression plans and that a student have written permission from a parent or guardian.

Present law relative to Individual Graduation Plans, requires students by the end of the 8th grade, to develop a plan to help explore educational and career possibilities and to make appropriate decisions as part of an overall career plan. Permits students to choose the high school curriculum framework and related graduation requirements that best meet their postsecondary goals. Provides that each student's plan shall include the recommended sequence of courses needed for successful completion of his chosen career major and shall be reviewed annually and updated as needed. Requires that a student's plan be signed by the student and his parent or other legal guardian. Proposed law retains present law except requires the student to begin developing the plan by the end of the 8th grade as a guide for the next academic year's course work and provides that the recommended sequence of courses shall be as needed for successful completion of a standard diploma instead of a chosen career major. Adds that the plan list the required courses to be taken through 10th grade; identify the courses to be taken in the first year of high school; include any necessary remedial courses if the student fails to meet the standard for promotion to the 9th grade; and by the end of the 10th grade, outline high school graduation requirements relevant to the student's postsecondary goals.

(Amends R.S. 17:183.1(A) and (C)(2), 183.2, 183.3(A)(2), (B), (C), and (D), and 2925; Adds R.S. 17:183.1(D))