

August 19, 2009
Committee: Education

HB 4410 (H-3)

Sponsor: SHELROWN

Floor Mgr:
MELTON/SHELROWN

Staff Member: Brooke Ibrahim

3.3176

Brief Description: House Bill 4410 (SHELROWN) (H-2) would amend section 1278a of the Revised School Code by making a change in the math portion of the Michigan Merit Curriculum.

Bill Contents: Under House Bill 4410 (H-2), all current graduation requirements would remain the same, except for the math requirements. Under the bill, students would be required to successfully complete four credits in mathematics. These credits would include at least:

- one credit in Algebra I
- one credit in geometry earned in a geometry course or the integrated equivalent in a career and technical course,
- and one credit earned in either a financial literacy course, or an algebra II course or the integrated equivalent in a career and technical education course.

The bill maintains the current requirement that each student must successfully complete at least one math course during their final year of high school.

Under current law, students can count whatever content is covered in Career and Technical Education courses toward the high school credit requirements. In fact, current law states that the board of a school district or board of directors of a public school academy that operates a high school must ensure that each pupil is offered the curriculum necessary for the pupil to meet the curricular requirements of this statute. The board or board of directors may provide this curriculum by providing the credits specified in this statute, by using alternative instructional delivery methods such as alternative course work, humanities course sequences, career and technical education, industrial technology courses, or vocational education, or by a combination of these. School districts and public school academies that operate career and technical education programs are encouraged to integrate the credit requirements of this statute into those programs.

Background: The current graduation requirements under the Michigan Merit Curriculum, beginning with students entering the 8th grade in 2006, are as follows:

- Four credits in English language arts.
- Four credits in math, including Geometry and Algebra I and II. At least one math course must be taken during the student's senior year.
- Three credits in science, with use of labs, including biology and chemistry or physics.
- Three credits in social sciences including U.S. History and Geography, World History and Geography, .5 credit of Civics, .5 credit of Economics.

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- One credit in Visual, Performing and Applied Arts.
- One credit in Physical Education and Health.
- All high school students must also participate in an online course or learning experience.
- Effective for the class of 2016, the credit requirement will increase to 18 credits, to include two credits in world languages. Students may receive credit if they have had a similar learning experience in grades K-12.

The board of a school district or public school academy shall not award a high school diploma to a student unless the student has successfully completed above credit requirements.

Fiscal Impact:

According to the House Fiscal Agency, the bill as introduced would have the following fiscal impact on the State and local levels:

State Impact: The Department of Education could face increased costs related to developing subject area content expectations and model assessments for credits included in the general diploma curriculum that are not already part of the Michigan Merit Standard.

Local Impact: Districts may face increased costs associated with developing credits to satisfy the general diploma curriculum; however, they may also see cost savings if the new general diploma curriculum reduces the level of change that otherwise would have been necessary to fully implement the Michigan Merit Standard.

Pro:

- The bill provides students with a new option in which to satisfy their mathematics requirements, to better fit each student's needs.

Con:

- Some may argue that the bill does not go far enough.

Administration Position: The Department of Education's position is pending.

Supporting:

Eastern Michigan University
 AFT-Michigan
 Grand Rapids Public Kent ISD
 Lenawee ISD
 Associated Builders and Contractors of Michigan
 Paw Paw Public

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Small and Rural Schools
Michigan Restaurant Association
Van Buren Intermediate School District
Berrien RESA Career and Technical Education

Opposing: None identified at this time.

Neutral: None identified at this time.

House Committee Vote On Reporting Bill: 17 yeas, 2 nays, 2 pass, 2 excused

Yeas: MELTON, BYRUM, CORRIVEAU, GEISS, HAASE, KENNEDY, LINDBERG,
NATHAN, POLIDORI, ROBERTS, SHELROWN, Ball, DeShazor, McMillin, Pearce,
Tyler, Walsh

Nays: Pavlov, Scott

Absent/Excused: BLEDSOE, VALENTINE

Pass: L.BROWN, Amash

Anticipated Floor Amendments: None anticipated at this time.