

By the Committee on Education and Senators Grant, Latvala, Meadows, Dyer, Lee, Forman and Dudley

304-2041-98

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to education; amending s.  
3           232.246, F.S.; revising credit requirements for  
4           high school graduation; creating s. 233.0616,  
5           F.S.; encouraging elementary schools and middle  
6           schools to implement personal fitness programs  
7           and providing for the allocation of funds;  
8           providing for the allocation of funds for  
9           upgrading a physical education specialist  
10          position in the Department of Education;  
11          providing effective dates.  
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13          WHEREAS, the American Heart Association has declared  
14          there to be a crisis in physical inactivity as evidenced by  
15          studies from the 1996 Surgeon General's report and other  
16          recent studies, and  
17          WHEREAS, proper exercise and nutrition greatly enhance  
18          a student's learning ability, mental health, and self-esteem  
19          and, therefore, should be an integral part of a student's  
20          daily learning, and  
21          WHEREAS, nearly half of persons 12 to 21 years of age  
22          are not vigorously active on a regular basis and physical  
23          activity declines dramatically during adolescence, and  
24          WHEREAS, the number of overweight students has more  
25          than doubled in the past two decades and 32 percent of  
26          American children 2 to 19 years of age have high cholesterol,  
27          and  
28          WHEREAS, most lifetime habits are developed during  
29          childhood and school-based intervention has been shown to be  
30          successful in increasing physical activity, and  
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1           WHEREAS, regular physical activity can assist in the  
2 prevention and management of heart disease, hypertension,  
3 diabetes, osteoporosis, obesity, cancer, eating disorders, and  
4 mental health problems, NOW, THEREFORE,

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6 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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8           Section 1. This act may be cited as the "1998 Personal  
9 Fitness Education Act."

10           Section 2. Effective July 1, 1999, subsection (1) and  
11 paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of section 232.246, Florida  
12 Statutes, are amended to read:

13           232.246 General requirements for high school  
14 graduation.--

15           (1) Graduation requires successful completion of  
16 either a minimum of 24 academic credits in grades 9 through 12  
17 or an International Baccalaureate curriculum. The 24 credits  
18 shall be distributed as follows:

19           (a) Four credits in English, with major concentration  
20 in composition and literature.

21           (b) Three credits in mathematics. Effective for  
22 students entering the 9th grade in the 1997-1998 school year  
23 and thereafter, one of these credits must be Algebra I, a  
24 series of courses equivalent to Algebra I, or a higher-level  
25 mathematics course.

26           (c) Three credits in science, two of which must have a  
27 laboratory component. The State Board of Education may grant  
28 an annual waiver of the laboratory requirement to a school  
29 district that certifies that its laboratory facilities are  
30 inadequate, provided the district submits a capital outlay

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1 plan to provide adequate facilities and makes the funding of  
2 this plan a priority of the school board.

3 (d) One credit in American history.

4 (e) One credit in world history, including a  
5 comparative study of the history, doctrines, and objectives of  
6 all major political systems.

7 (f) One-half credit in economics, including a  
8 comparative study of the history, doctrines, and objectives of  
9 all major economic systems. The Florida Council on Economic  
10 Education shall provide technical assistance to the department  
11 and local school boards in developing curriculum materials for  
12 the study of economics.

13 (g) One-half credit in American government, including  
14 study of the Constitution of the United States. For students  
15 entering the 9th grade in the 1997-1998 school year and  
16 thereafter, the study of Florida government, including study  
17 of the State Constitution, the three branches of state  
18 government, and municipal and county government, shall be  
19 included as part of the required study of American government.

20 (h)1. One credit in practical arts career education or  
21 exploratory career education. Any vocational course as  
22 defined in s. 228.041(22) may be taken to satisfy the high  
23 school graduation requirement for one credit in practical arts  
24 or exploratory career education provided in this subparagraph;

25 2. One credit in performing fine arts to be selected  
26 from music, dance, drama, painting, or sculpture. A course in  
27 any art form, in addition to painting or sculpture, that  
28 requires manual dexterity, or a course in speech and debate,  
29 may be taken to satisfy the high school graduation requirement  
30 for one credit in performing arts pursuant to this  
31 subparagraph; or

1           3. One-half credit each in practical arts career  
2 education or exploratory career education and performing fine  
3 arts, as defined in this paragraph.

4  
5 Such credit for practical arts career education or exploratory  
6 career education or for performing fine arts shall be made  
7 available in the 9th grade, and students shall be scheduled  
8 into a 9th grade course as a priority.

9           (i) One-half credit in life management skills to  
10 include consumer education, positive emotional development,  
11 nutrition, prevention of human immunodeficiency virus  
12 infection and acquired immune deficiency syndrome and other  
13 sexually transmissible diseases, benefits of sexual abstinence  
14 and consequences of teenage pregnancy, information and  
15 instruction on breast cancer detection and breast  
16 self-examination, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, drug  
17 education, and the hazards of smoking. Such credit shall be  
18 given for a course to be taken by all students in either the  
19 9th or 10th grade.

20           (j) One ~~One-half~~ credit in physical education to  
21 include assessment, improvement, and maintenance of personal  
22 fitness. Participation in an interscholastic sport, ~~whether~~  
23 at the ~~freshman~~, junior varsity, or varsity level, for two a  
24 full seasons ~~season~~, shall satisfy the one-credit ~~one-half~~  
25 credit requirement in physical education if the student passes  
26 a competency test on personal fitness with a score of "C" or  
27 better. The competency test on personal fitness must be  
28 developed by the Department of Education. A school board may  
29 not require that the one credit in physical education be taken  
30 during the 9th grade year.

31           (k) Eight and one-half ~~Nine~~ elective credits.

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2 School boards may award a maximum of one-half credit in social  
3 studies and one-half elective credit for student completion of  
4 nonpaid voluntary community or school service work. Students  
5 choosing this option must complete a minimum of 75 hours of  
6 service in order to earn the one-half credit in either  
7 category of instruction. Credit may not be earned for service  
8 provided as a result of court action. School boards that  
9 approve the award of credit for student volunteer service  
10 shall develop guidelines regarding the award of the credit,  
11 and school principals are responsible for approving specific  
12 volunteer activities. A course designated in the Course Code  
13 Directory as grade 9 through grade 12 which is taken below the  
14 9th grade may be used to satisfy high school graduation  
15 requirements or Florida Academic Scholars award ~~Scholar's~~  
16 ~~Certificate Program~~ requirements as specified in a district's  
17 pupil progression plan.

18 (6) The Legislature recognizes that adult learners are  
19 unique in situation and needs. The following graduation  
20 requirements are therefore instituted for students enrolled in  
21 adult general education in accordance with s. 239.301 in  
22 pursuit of a high school diploma:

23 (a) The one ~~one-half~~ credit in physical education  
24 required for graduation, pursuant to subsection (1), is not  
25 required for graduation and shall be substituted with elective  
26 credit keeping the total credits needed for graduation  
27 consistent with subsection (1).

28 Section 3. Section 233.0616, Florida Statutes, is  
29 created to read:

30 233.0616 Personal fitness programs.--Each elementary  
31 school and middle school is encouraged to implement a personal

1 fitness program, approved by the Department of Education, that  
2 complies with American Heart Association guidelines for  
3 elementary school and middle school personal fitness courses.  
4 From incentive funds provided in the General Appropriations  
5 Act, the Department of Education shall allocate funds to  
6 schools implementing personal fitness programs pursuant to  
7 this section.

8           Section 4. From funds provided in the General  
9 Appropriations Act, the Department of Education shall allocate  
10 funds to provide for an additional one-fourth-time position to  
11 upgrade the physical education specialist position in the  
12 department from a three-fourths-time position to a full-time  
13 position.

14           Section 5. Except as otherwise provided in this act,  
15 this act shall take effect July 1, 1998.

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17                   STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN  
18                   COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
19                   SB 1840

20 The Committee Substitute differs from SB 1840 in that it  
21 corrects the allocation needed to fund a full-time physical  
22 education specialist position in the Department of Education.  
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