

**STORAGE NAME:** h0909.edk  
**DATE:** March 9, 1999

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION K-12  
ANALYSIS**

**BILL #:** HB 909  
**RELATING TO:** Course of Study (Life Management Skills/Parenting)  
**SPONSOR(S):** Representative Wilson  
**COMPANION BILL(S):** SB 1274

**ORIGINATING COMMITTEE(S)/COMMITTEE(S) OF REFERENCE:**

- (1) EDUCATION K-12
  - (2) EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS
  - (3)
  - (4)
  - (5)
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I. SUMMARY:

HB 909 requires instruction in parenting skills to be included in the one-half credit in life management skills required for graduation from high school.

This act shall take effect July 1, 1999.

II. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS:

A. PRESENT SITUATION:

**General Requirements for High School Graduation**

Currently, the minimum requirements for high school graduation include the following:

- ◆ passage of both sections of the High School Competency Test (HSCT);
- ◆ completion of a minimum of 24 credits;
- ◆ receipt of the required grade point average (GPA) for graduation. Students who enter the 9th grade during the 1997-98 school year must have a 2.0 cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale in the courses that apply to the credits required for high school graduation. Students who entered the 9th grade prior to 1997-98 must earn a 2.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale for courses required for high school graduation which are taken after July 1, 1997; or maintain an overall cumulative GPA of 2.0 including all high school courses taken in the student's educational program; and
- ◆ successful completion of any other requirements prescribed by the local school board.

The 24 credits required for graduation are distributed as follows:

English . . . . . 4 credits

Math . . . . . 3 credits

One of which must be Algebra 1, a series of courses equivalent to Algebra 1, or a higher-level course

Science . . . . . 3 credits

American History . . . . . 1 credit

World History . . . . . 1 credit

Economics . . . . . ½ credit

American Government . . . . . ½ credit

Practical Arts/Career Education/Performing Fine Arts . . . . . 1 credit

Life Management Skills . . . . . ½ credit

Physical Education . . . . . ½ credit

Participation in an interscholastic sport, whether at the freshman, junior varsity, or varsity level, for a full season, will satisfy the one-half credit requirement in physical education.

Electives . . . . . 9 credits

Total . . . . . 24 credits

Beginning, July 1, 1999, the physical education credit requirement is increased to 1 full credit and required electives are reduced to 8 ½ credits. The total required amount for graduation remains at 24 credits.

District school boards are authorized and encouraged to establish requirements for high school graduation in excess of the minimum requirements; however, an increase in academic credit or minimum grade point average requirements shall not apply to those students enrolled in grades 9 through 12 at the time the district school board increases the requirements. (s. 232.246(4)(c), F.S.)

**B. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:**

**Required Instruction in Parenting Skills**

The bill requires instruction in parenting skills to be included in the one-half credit in life management skills required for graduation from high school.

**C. APPLICATION OF PRINCIPLES:**

1. Less Government:

a. Does the bill create, increase or reduce, either directly or indirectly:

(1) any authority to make rules or adjudicate disputes?

No.

(2) any new responsibilities, obligations or work for other governmental or private organizations or individuals?

No.

(3) any entitlement to a government service or benefit?

No.

b. If an agency or program is eliminated or reduced:

(1) what responsibilities, costs and powers are passed on to another program, agency, level of government, or private entity?

No.

(2) what is the cost of such responsibility at the new level/agency?

No.

(3) how is the new agency accountable to the people governed?

No.

2. Lower Taxes:

a. Does the bill increase anyone's taxes?

No.

b. Does the bill require or authorize an increase in any fees?

No.

c. Does the bill reduce total taxes, both rates and revenues?

No.

d. Does the bill reduce total fees, both rates and revenues?

No.

e. Does the bill authorize any fee or tax increase by any local government?

No.

3. Personal Responsibility:

a. Does the bill reduce or eliminate an entitlement to government services or subsidy?

No.

b. Do the beneficiaries of the legislation directly pay any portion of the cost of implementation and operation?

No.

4. Individual Freedom:

a. Does the bill increase the allowable options of individuals or private organizations/associations to conduct their own affairs?

No.

b. Does the bill prohibit, or create new government interference with, any presently lawful activity?

No.

5. Family Empowerment:

a. If the bill purports to provide services to families or children:

This bill does not purport to provide services to families or children.

(1) Who evaluates the family's needs?

N/A

(2) Who makes the decisions?

N/A

(3) Are private alternatives permitted?

N/A

(4) Are families required to participate in a program?

N/A

(5) Are families penalized for not participating in a program?

N/A

b. Does the bill directly affect the legal rights and obligations between family members?

No.

c. If the bill creates or changes a program providing services to families or children, in which of the following does the bill vest control of the program, either through direct participation or appointment authority:

This bill does not create or change a program providing services to families or children.

(1) parents and guardians?

N/A

(2) service providers?

N/A

(3) government employees/agencies?

N/A

D. STATUTE(S) AFFECTED:

Amending s. 232.246, F.S.

E. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS:

Section 1: Amends s. 232.246, F.S., relating to courses of study, requiring instruction in parenting skills to be included in the one-half credit in life management skills required for graduation from high school.

Section 2: Provides an effective date of July 1, 1999.

III. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT:

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE AGENCIES/STATE FUNDS:

1. Non-recurring Effects:

None.

2. Recurring Effects:

None.

3. Long Run Effects Other Than Normal Growth:

None.

4. Total Revenues and Expenditures:

None.

**B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AS A WHOLE:**

1. Non-recurring Effects:

None.

2. Recurring Effects:

None.

3. Long Run Effects Other Than Normal Growth:

None.

**C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:**

1. Direct Private Sector Costs:

None.

2. Direct Private Sector Benefits:

None.

3. Effects on Competition, Private Enterprise and Employment Markets:

None.

**D. FISCAL COMMENTS:**

None.

**IV. CONSEQUENCES OF ARTICLE VII, SECTION 18 OF THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTION:**

**A. APPLICABILITY OF THE MANDATES PROVISION:**

This bill does not require counties or municipalities to spend funds or take an action requiring the expenditure of funds.

**B. REDUCTION OF REVENUE RAISING AUTHORITY:**

This bill does not reduce the authority that municipalities or countries have to raise revenues in the aggregate.

**C. REDUCTION OF STATE TAX SHARED WITH COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES:**

This bill does not reduce the percentage of a state tax shared with counties or municipalities.

**V. COMMENTS:**

None.

**VI. AMENDMENTS OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES:**

None.

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VII. SIGNATURES:

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION K-12:  
Prepared by:

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