

**STORAGE NAME:** h2105.ei

**DATE:** April 5, 2000

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION INNOVATION  
ANALYSIS**

**BILL #:** HB 2105

**RELATING TO:** High School Diplomas

**SPONSOR(S):** Representative Futch

**TIED BILL(S):** none

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

(1) EDUCATION INNOVATION

(2)

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(4)

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I. SUMMARY:

HB 2105 provides for the award of a standard high school diploma to honorably discharged World War II veterans who joined the United States Armed Forces prior to graduation from high school.

The bill has no significant fiscal impact.

II. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS:

A. DOES THE BILL SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:

- 1. Less Government                      Yes     No     N/A
- 2. Lower Taxes                              Yes     No     N/A
- 3. Individual Freedom                    Yes     No     N/A
- 4. Personal Responsibility              Yes     No     N/A
- 5. Family Empowerment                Yes     No     N/A

For any principle that received a "no" above, please explain:

B. 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;  
The 24 credits required for graduation are distributed as follows:  
English . . . . . 4 credits  
Math . . . . . 3 credits  
    One of the required math credits 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
- 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.

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.)

### **World War II Veterans**

The United States involvement in World War II started December 7, 1941. Many young men who were in high school between 1937 and 1946, enlisted or were drafted into the armed forces before finishing high school. Upon returning home after the war, many veterans did not return to school due to family obligations, their age at the time of the discharge, or extenuating circumstances.

Presently, the United States World War II veteran population is about 5,940,000. The Florida World War II veteran population, as of July 1, 1999, was 501,000.

#### **C. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:**

The bill allows the Commissioner of Education to award a standard high school diploma to honorably discharged veterans who started high school between 1937 and 1946 and were scheduled to graduate between 1941 and 1950 but were inducted into the United States Armed Forces between September 16, 1940 and December 31, 1946. Upon the recommendation of the commissioner, the State Board of Education may develop criteria and guidelines for awarding such diplomas.

#### **D. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS:**

This section need be completed only in the discretion of the Committee.

### **III. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT:**

#### **A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:**

##### **1. Revenues:**

N/A

##### **2. Expenditures:**

The Division of Work Force Development will be responsible for the printing of the diplomas at a minimal fiscal impact.

**B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:**

1. Revenues:

N/A

2. Expenditures:

N/A

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

N/A

**D. FISCAL COMMENTS:**

N/A

**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 expend funds.

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

This bill does not reduce the authority of counties or municipalities to raise revenue.

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

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

**V. COMMENTS:**

**A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:**

N/A

**B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:**

N/A

**C. OTHER COMMENTS:**

N/A

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VI. AMENDMENTS OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES:

N/A

VII. SIGNATURES:

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION INNOVATION:

Prepared by:

Staff Director:

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