

By Senator Lawson

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to requirements for high school graduation; amending s. 232.246, F.S.; requiring that the one-half credit in life-management skills required for high school graduation include the principles and skills of responsible parenting; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (i) of subsection (1) of section 232.246, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

232.246 General requirements for high school graduation.--

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

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

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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 requirements
16 as specified in a district's pupil progression plan. A student
17 shall be granted credit toward meeting the requirements of
18 this subsection for equivalent courses, as identified pursuant
19 to s. 229.551(1)(f)6., taken through dual enrollment.

20 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.

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23 SENATE SUMMARY

24 Requires that the principles and skills of responsible
25 parenting be included in the course on life-management
26 skills which is required for high school graduation.
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