

By Senator Saunders

25-1045-02

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to secondary education;
3 amending s. 232.246, F.S.; revising the options
4 for fulfilling the physical-education
5 requirement for high-school graduation;
6 providing an effective date.

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

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10 Section 1. Paragraph (j) of subsection (1) of section
11 232.246, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

12 232.246 General requirements for high school
13 graduation.--

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

18 (j)1. One credit in physical education to include
19 assessment, improvement, and maintenance of personal fitness.
20 Participation in an interscholastic sport at the junior
21 varsity or varsity level, for two full seasons, shall satisfy
22 the one-credit requirement in physical education if the
23 student passes a competency test on personal fitness with a
24 score of "C" or better. The competency test on personal
25 fitness must be developed by the Department of Education. A
26 school board may not require that the one credit in physical
27 education be taken during the 9th grade year.

28 2. Completion of one semester with a grade of "C" or
29 better in a marching band class, or in a physical activity
30 class such as eurhythmics, which requires participation in
31 marching band activities as an extracurricular activity shall

1 satisfy a one-half-credit requirement in physical education.
2 This half credit may not be used to satisfy the
3 personal-fitness requirement nor the requirement for adaptive
4 physical education under an individual education plan (IEP) or
5 504 plan.

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7 School boards may award a maximum of one-half credit in social
8 studies and one-half elective credit for student completion of
9 nonpaid voluntary community or school service work. Students
10 choosing this option must complete a minimum of 75 hours of
11 service in order to earn the one-half credit in either
12 category of instruction. Credit may not be earned for service
13 provided as a result of court action. School boards that
14 approve the award of credit for student volunteer service
15 shall develop guidelines regarding the award of the credit,
16 and school principals are responsible for approving specific
17 volunteer activities. A course designated in the Course Code
18 Directory as grade 9 through grade 12 which is taken below the
19 9th grade may be used to satisfy high school graduation
20 requirements or Florida Academic Scholars award requirements
21 as specified in a district's pupil progression plan. A student
22 shall be granted credit toward meeting the requirements of
23 this subsection for equivalent courses, as identified pursuant
24 to s. 229.551(1)(f)6., taken through dual enrollment.

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

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28 SENATE SUMMARY

29 Allows the physical-education requirement for high-school
30 graduation to be partly satisfied by satisfactory
31 participation in marching-band activities.