

By Representative Arza

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to requirements for high school
3 graduation; amending s. 232.246, F.S.;
4 authorizing participation in specified
5 activities as a means to satisfy the physical
6 education credit requirement; providing an
7 effective date.

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

10
11 Section 1. Paragraph (j) of subsection (1) of section
12 232.246, Florida Statutes, is 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 (j) One credit in physical education to include
20 assessment, improvement, and maintenance of personal fitness.
21 Participation in an interscholastic sport at the junior
22 varsity or varsity level, for two full seasons, or
23 participation for 1 school year in cheerleading, marching
24 band, auxiliary, flag corps, or dance team shall satisfy the
25 one-credit requirement in physical education if the student
26 passes a competency test on personal fitness with a score of
27 "C" or 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

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

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

20 *****

21
22 HOUSE SUMMARY

23
24 With respect to credit requirements for high school
25 graduation, provides that a student may satisfy the
26 physical education credit requirement by participation in
27 cheerleading, marching band, auxiliary, flag corps, or
28 dance team.
29
30
31