

By Representative Peterman

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to requirements for high school
3 graduation; amending s. 232.246, F.S.;
4 requiring credit in a course of study that
5 prepares students for employment after
6 graduation; reducing the number of elective
7 credits required for graduation; amending s.
8 233.061, F.S.; providing for required
9 instruction; providing an effective date.

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

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13 Section 1. Paragraph (k) of subsection (1) of section
14 232.246, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as paragraph (l)
15 and amended, and a new paragraph (k) is added to said
16 subsection, to read:

17 232.246 General requirements for high school
18 graduation.--

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

23 (k) One-half credit in a course of study that includes
24 the elements essential to completing high school with skills
25 that give a student a competitive advantage in seeking and
26 maintaining employment. Such credit shall be given for a
27 one-semester 12th grade course that includes instruction in
28 speaking skills for business interviews, proper grooming for
29 the workplace, and appropriate dress for lower-to-middle-level
30 management positions. The course shall include a process by
31 which interviews between students and local businesses are

1 conducted and students are able to shadow
2 lower-to-middle-level managers. The course shall stress the
3 importance of the American and Floridian work ethic which is
4 based on the qualities of punctuality, 100-percent effort, and
5 commitment to a full day's work for a full day's pay.

6 (1)~~(k)~~ Eight ~~and one-half~~ elective credits.

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

26 Section 2. Paragraph (s) is added to subsection (2) of
27 section 233.061, Florida Statutes, to read:

28 233.061 Required instruction.--

29 (2) Members of the instructional staff of the public
30 schools, subject to the rules and regulations of the
31 commissioner, the state board, and the school board, shall

1 teach efficiently and faithfully, using the books and
2 materials required, following the prescribed courses of study,
3 and employing approved methods of instruction, the following:
4 (s) The elements essential to completing high school
5 with skills that give a student a competitive advantage in
6 seeking and maintaining employment.

7 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2002.

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HOUSE SUMMARY

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Requires a one-half credit course of study for high school graduation to include the elements essential to completing high school with skills that give students a competitive advantage in seeking and maintaining employment.