

By Senator Wilson

33-646-03

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to requirements for high school
graduation; amending s. 1003.43, F.S.;
requiring that instruction in parenting skills
be included within the one-half credit in life
management skills required for graduation from
high school; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (i) of subsection (1) of section
1003.43, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.43 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, nutrition,
parenting skills, 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.

1 District school boards may award a maximum of one-half credit
2 in social studies and one-half elective credit for student
3 completion of nonpaid voluntary community or school service
4 work. Students choosing this option must complete a minimum
5 of 75 hours of service in order to earn the one-half credit in
6 either category of instruction. Credit may not be earned for
7 service provided as a result of court action. District school
8 boards that approve the award of credit for student volunteer
9 service shall develop guidelines regarding the award of the
10 credit, and school principals are responsible for approving
11 specific volunteer activities. A course designated in the
12 Course Code Directory as grade 9 through grade 12 that is
13 taken below the 9th grade may be used to satisfy high school
14 graduation requirements or Florida Academic Scholars award
15 requirements as specified in a district school board's student
16 progression plan. A student shall be granted credit toward
17 meeting the requirements of this subsection for equivalent
18 courses, as identified pursuant to s. 1007.271(6), taken
19 through dual enrollment.

20 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003.

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23 SENATE SUMMARY

24 Requires that instruction in parenting skills be included
25 as part of the required instruction in life management
26 skills which is required for high school graduation.
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