

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: Education Committee

BILL: SB 568

SPONSOR: Senator Wilson

SUBJECT: Requirements for high school graduation

DATE: February 2, 2005

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Hilton	O'Farrell	ED	Unfavorable
2.			RC	
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				

I. Summary:

SB 568 amends s. 1003.43, F.S., by allowing students who were unable to pass the 10th grade Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test or its equivalent the opportunity to participate in graduation ceremonies.

The bill amends s. 1003.43, Florida Statutes.

The bill shall take effect upon becoming a law.

II. Present Situation:

Section 1003.43, F.S., identifies high school graduation requirements as successfully passing the 10th grade Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test, earning 24 credits, and obtaining a grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.

The state is silent on student participation in high school graduation ceremonies. There is no state statute or State Board of Education rule that addresses local graduation ceremonies; this is determined by local school board policy. The Senate Education Committee with the help of the Florida Department of Education surveyed several school districts to obtain information related to policies for students participating in graduation exercises.

The survey asked the following questions:

Does your district policy require students to meet all requirements for graduation (minimum credits, minimum GPA, and passing the FCAT) in order to participate in graduation ceremonies?

Does your district policy allow students who meet all graduation requirements except earning passing scores on the FCAT to participate in graduation ceremonies?

Does your policy allow students to participate in graduation ceremonies if they earn a certificate of completion?

The survey results indicate that Orange, Duval, Hillsborough, and Miami-Dade school districts allow students to participate in graduation ceremonies even if a student has not met all requirements; however, Pinellas County does not allow participation of those who have not met all the requirements.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill allows high school seniors who are unable to pass the 10th grade Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test or its equivalent, (but who have met all other graduation requirements), the opportunity to participate in graduation ceremonies.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.

VIII. Summary of Amendments:

None.

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