

By Senator Margolis

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to requirements for high school graduation
3 or the high school equivalency diploma; amending ss.
4 1003.428 and 1003.435, F.S.; requiring that, as a
5 prerequisite to graduating or receiving a high school
6 equivalency diploma, a high school student or candidate
7 for the equivalency diploma register or preregister to
8 vote if qualified to do so; providing for certain
9 exceptions to the requirement; providing an effective
10 date.

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

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14 Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 1003.428, Florida
15 Statutes, is amended to read:

16 1003.428 General requirements for high school graduation;
17 revised.--

18 (1) (a) Except as otherwise authorized pursuant to s.
19 1003.429, beginning with students entering their first year of
20 high school in the 2007-2008 school year, graduation requires the
21 successful completion of a minimum of 24 credits, an
22 International Baccalaureate curriculum, or an Advanced
23 International Certificate of Education curriculum. Students must
24 be advised of eligibility requirements for state scholarship
25 programs and postsecondary admissions.

26 (b) Beginning with students entering their first year of
27 high school in the 2008-2009 school year, graduation requires
28 that a student register or preregister to vote pursuant to s.
29 97.041 if the student qualifies to do so. However, upon written

35-00272-08

2008436__

30 request by a student's parent or guardian, the student shall be
31 excused from this requirement, or, if a student is 18 years of
32 age or older or an emancipated minor, he or she shall be allowed
33 to opt out of this requirement.

34 Section 2. Subsection (2) of section 1003.435, Florida
35 Statutes, is amended to read:

36 1003.435 High school equivalency diploma program.--

37 (2) The department may award high school equivalency
38 diplomas to candidates who meet the performance standards
39 prescribed by the State Board of Education. Each candidate for a
40 high school equivalency diploma who qualifies to register or
41 preregister to vote pursuant to s. 97.041 must do so. However,
42 upon written request by the candidate's parent or guardian, the
43 candidate shall be excused from this requirement, or, if the
44 candidate is 18 years of age or older or an emancipated minor, he
45 or she shall be allowed to opt out of this requirement.

46 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.