

HB 125

2016

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to high school graduation  
3           requirements; amending s. 1003.4282, F.S.; requiring  
4           students to earn one-half credit in health education,  
5           independent of the physical education credit  
6           requirements, for high school graduation; authorizing  
7           a waiver for students who request to take and  
8           successfully complete a health education assessment  
9           developed by the Department of Education; reducing the  
10          number of required credits in elective courses;  
11          providing an effective date.

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

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15          Section 1. Paragraph (f) of subsection (3) of section  
16          1003.4282, Florida Statutes, is amended, paragraph (g) of that  
17          subsection is redesignated as paragraph (h) and amended, and a  
18          new paragraph (g) is added to that subsection, to read:

19          1003.4282 Requirements for a standard high school  
20          diploma.—

21          (3) STANDARD HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA; COURSE AND ASSESSMENT  
22          REQUIREMENTS.—

23          (f) One credit in physical education.—Physical education  
24          must include the integration of health, except that beginning  
25          with students entering grade 9 in the 2016-2017 school year,  
26          health education shall not be included in physical education.

27 Participation in an interscholastic sport at the junior varsity  
28 or varsity level for two full seasons shall satisfy the one-  
29 credit requirement in physical education if the student passes a  
30 competency test on personal fitness with a score of "C" or  
31 better. The competency test on personal fitness developed by the  
32 Department of Education must be used. A district school board  
33 may not require that the one credit in physical education be  
34 taken during the 9th grade year. Completion of one semester with  
35 a grade of "C" or better in a marching band class, in a physical  
36 activity class that requires participation in marching band  
37 activities as an extracurricular activity, or in a dance class  
38 shall satisfy one-half credit in physical education or one-half  
39 credit in performing arts. This credit may not be used to  
40 satisfy the personal fitness requirement or the requirement for  
41 adaptive physical education under an individual education plan  
42 (IEP) or 504 plan. Completion of 2 years in a Reserve Officer  
43 Training Corps (R.O.T.C.) class, a significant component of  
44 which is drills, shall satisfy the one-credit requirement in  
45 physical education and the one-credit requirement in performing  
46 arts. This credit may not be used to satisfy the personal  
47 fitness requirement or the requirement for adaptive physical  
48 education under an IEP or 504 plan.

49 (g) One-half credit in health education.—Beginning with  
50 students entering grade 9 in the 2016-2017 school year, a  
51 student must earn one-half credit in health education. The  
52 health education requirement may be waived if the student

53 requests to take a health education assessment and scores a "C"  
54 or better, in which case the student must earn eight credits in  
55 electives. The Department of Education shall develop the health  
56 education assessment.

57 (h) ~~(g)~~ Eight credits in electives or, beginning with  
58 students entering grade 9 in the 2016-2017 school year, seven  
59 and one-half credits in electives.—School districts must develop  
60 and offer coordinated electives so that a student may develop  
61 knowledge and skills in his or her area of interest, such as  
62 electives with a STEM or liberal arts focus. Such electives must  
63 include opportunities for students to earn college credit,  
64 including industry-certified career education programs or series  
65 of career-themed courses that result in industry certification  
66 or articulate into the award of college credit, or career  
67 education courses for which there is a statewide or local  
68 articulation agreement and which lead to college credit.

69 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.