

By Senator Farmer

34-00764-17

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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.

12  
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, present paragraph (g)  
17      of that section is redesignated as paragraph (h) and amended,  
18      and a new paragraph (g) is added to that subsection, to read:

19       1003.4282 Requirements for a standard high school diploma.—

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

22       (f) *One credit in physical education.*—Physical education  
23      must include the integration of health, except that beginning  
24      with students entering grade 9 in the 2017-2018 school year,  
25      health education may not be included in physical education.  
26      Participation in an interscholastic sport at the junior varsity  
27      or varsity level for two full seasons shall satisfy the one-  
28      credit requirement in physical education if the student passes a  
29      competency test on personal fitness with a score of "C" or

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

48 (g) One-half credit in health education.—Beginning with  
49 students entering grade 9 in the 2017-2018 school year, a  
50 student must earn one-half credit in health education. The  
51 health education requirement may be waived if the student  
52 requests to take a health education assessment and scores a "C"  
53 or better, in which case the student must earn eight credits in  
54 electives. The Department of Education shall develop the health  
55 education assessment.

56 (h) ~~(g)~~ Eight credits in electives or, beginning with  
57 students entering grade 9 in the 2017-2018 school year, seven  
58 and one-half credits in electives.—School districts must develop

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59 and offer coordinated electives so that a student may develop  
60 knowledge and skills in his or her area of interest, such as  
61 electives with a STEM or liberal arts focus. Such electives must  
62 include opportunities for students to earn college credit,  
63 including industry-certified career education programs or series  
64 of career-themed courses that result in industry certification  
65 or articulate into the award of college credit, or career  
66 education courses for which there is a statewide or local  
67 articulation agreement and which lead to college credit.

68 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.