

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS
FINAL BILL ANALYSIS**

BILL #: CS/HB 225 Education

SPONSOR(S): PreK-12 Quality Subcommittee, Beltran and others

TIED BILLS: None **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** CS/SB 292

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) PreK-12 Quality Subcommittee	13 Y, 0 N, As CS	Sleap	Guy
2) Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee	13 Y, 0 N	Renner	Miller
3) Education Committee	15 Y, 0 N	Sleap	Hassell
FINAL HOUSE FLOOR ACTION: 115 Y's 0 N's GOVERNOR'S ACTION: Approved			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

CS/HB 225 passed the House on April 30, 2019, as CS/SB 292.

The bill prohibits a district school board from barring a student from lawfully wearing the dress uniform of any of the Armed Forces of the United States or of the state at his or her graduation ceremony.

The bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact.

The bill was approved by the Governor on May 23, 2019, ch. 2019-48, L.O.F., and became effective on that date.

I. SUBSTANTIVE INFORMATION

A. EFFECT OF CHANGES:

Present Situation

Florida High School Graduation

Graduation Requirements

Florida law establishes academic requirements for earning a standard high school diploma to include four options:

- successful completion of 24 credits;
- an International Baccalaureate curriculum;
- an Advanced International Certificate of Education curriculum¹; or
- the Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL) option.²

The 24 credits required for a standard high school diploma include:

- four credits in English Language Arts;
- four credits in mathematics;
- three credits in science;
- three credits in social studies;
- one credit in fine or performing arts, speech, and debate, or practical arts;
- one credit in physical education; and
- eight credits in electives.³

Within the 24 credits, at least one course must be completed through online learning.⁴ In addition to successful completion of the required courses, students must pass required statewide standardized assessments and earn a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.⁵

High School Graduation Exercises

Current law provides district school boards with the operation and control of public K-12 education within their school district, including adopting rules for admitting, classifying, promoting, and graduating students in the schools of the district.⁶ In addition, school boards have supplemental powers and duties over student affairs, to include the authority to adopt policies and procedures specific to graduation requirements and exercises for the district.⁷

There is no provision in current law governing dress code requirements for students participating in graduation exercises. Therefore, local school boards, school districts, and school administration have discretion over graduation dress code.

¹ Section 1003.4282(1)(a), F.S.

² Section 1002.3105(5), F.S.

³ Section 1003.4282(3)(a)-(g), F.S.

⁴ Section 1003.4282(4), F.S.

⁵ Section 1003.4282(3) and s. 2003.4282(6)(a), F.S.

⁶ Section 1003.02, F.S.

⁷ Section 1001.43(8), F.S.

High School Graduation Dress Code in Other States

Each of the military branches has their own requirements that dictate a particular uniform, but as a general matter, a recruit that has completed basic training is classified as a “soldier.”⁸ Nationally, California, New Hampshire, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania all allow a student who fulfills the established graduation requirements, and is eligible, to wear the appropriate military dress uniform at the student’s high school graduation ceremony.⁹

Effect of the Bill

The bill amends the supplemental powers and duties of a district school board over student assessment and affairs. It prohibits a district school board from barring a student from lawfully wearing the dress uniform of any of the Armed Forces of the United States or of the state at his or her graduation ceremony.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

⁸ Telephone interview with U.S. Army Recruiting Office, West Tallahassee (March 18, 2019).

⁹ Cal. Education Code § 351.83.3 (2009); N.H. REV. STAT. ANN. § 189:71 (2016); N.J. STAT. ANN. § 1-C.18A:7C-5.3; and PA. CONS. STAT. Title 24 P.S. Education § 16-1616.