

REFERENCE TITLE: school pupils; alternative graduation requirements.

State of Arizona
Senate
Forty-eighth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2008

SB 1295

Introduced by
Senators McCune Davis, Burton Cahill, Hale, Landrum Taylor, Pesquiera:
Aguirre, Arzberger, Rios; Representatives DeSimone, Rios P

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 15, CHAPTER 7, ARTICLE 1, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING
SECTION 15-701.02; RELATING TO SCHOOL CURRICULUM.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Title 15, chapter 7, article 1, Arizona Revised Statutes,
3 is amended by adding section 15-701.02, to read:

4 15-701.02. Alternative high school graduation requirement:
5 definition

6 A. A PUPIL WHO FAILS TO ACHIEVE A PASSING SCORE ON A COMPETENCY TEST
7 REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION FROM HIGH SCHOOL MAY GRADUATE IF THE PUPIL MEETS THE
8 ALTERNATIVE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION.

9 B. A PUPIL IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE ALTERNATIVE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
10 ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION IF ALL OF THE FOLLOWING APPLY:

11 1. THE PUPIL HAS TAKEN THE COMPETENCY TEST EACH TIME THE TEST WAS
12 OFFERED WHEN THE PUPIL WAS ELIGIBLE TO TAKE THE TEST.

13 2. THE PUPIL HAS COMPLETED WITH A PASSING GRADE ALL COURSEWORK AND
14 CREDITS PRESCRIBED FOR THE GRADUATION OF PUPILS FROM HIGH SCHOOL BY THE
15 GOVERNING BOARD OF THE PUPIL'S SCHOOL DISTRICT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15-701.01.

16 3. THE PUPIL HAS PARTICIPATED IN ANY ACADEMIC REMEDIATION PROGRAMS
17 AVAILABLE IN THE PUPIL'S SCHOOL IN THOSE SUBJECT AREAS WHERE THE PUPIL FAILED
18 TO ACHIEVE A PASSING SCORE ON THE COMPETENCY TEST.

19 C. PUPILS WHO FAIL TO ACHIEVE A PASSING SCORE ON A COMPETENCY TEST
20 REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION FROM HIGH SCHOOL MAY AUGMENT THE SCORE WITH
21 ADDITIONAL CREDIT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION D OF THIS SECTION. A PUPIL SHALL
22 AUGMENT THE SCORE OF EACH AREA WHERE THE PUPIL FAILED TO ACHIEVE A PASSING
23 SCORE SEPARATELY AND CONCURRENTLY IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED ONE QUARTER OF
24 THE PUPIL'S ACHIEVED SCORE IN EACH AREA. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, A
25 PUPIL MAY USE THE HIGHEST ACHIEVED SCORE IN EACH AREA OF ANY TIME THE
26 COMPETENCY TEST WAS TAKEN.

27 D. THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL PROVIDE FOR THE AUGMENTING OF
28 COMPETENCY TEST SCORES OF PUPILS WHO FAIL TO ACHIEVE A PASSING SCORE ON THE
29 COMPETENCY TEST REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION FROM HIGH SCHOOL. THE BOARD, BY
30 RULE, SHALL ESTABLISH THE MANNER THAT ADDITIONAL CREDIT MAY BE USED TO
31 AUGMENT THE SCORE OF THE PUPIL. THE BOARD SHALL USE THE AUGMENTED SCORES
32 ONLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING WHETHER THE PUPIL MEETS THE ALTERNATIVE
33 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION. IF THE
34 AUGMENTED SCORE OF THE PUPIL EXCEEDS THE PASSING SCORE ON THE COMPETENCY
35 TEST, THE PUPIL SHALL BE CONSIDERED TO HAVE PASSED THE COMPETENCY TEST IN
36 THAT AREA FOR GRADUATION PURPOSES.

37 E. ADDITIONAL CREDITS APPLIED TO THE PUPIL'S SCORE PURSUANT TO
38 SUBSECTIONS C AND D OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE BASED ONLY ON THE PERFORMANCE OF
39 THE PUPIL IN THOSE COURSES THAT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION
40 ESTABLISHED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 15-203,
41 SUBSECTION A, PARAGRAPH 13, INCLUDING ANY ELECTIVES THAT SATISFY THE
42 REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION. EACH COURSE THAT
43 RECEIVES ADDITIONAL CREDIT PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION SHALL RECEIVE EQUIVALENT
44 ADDITIONAL CREDIT REGARDLESS OF SUBJECT AREA, EXCEPT THAT GREATER ADDITIONAL
45 CREDIT SHALL BE GRANTED FOR COURSES WITH MORE ADVANCED ACADEMIC CONTENT

1 RELATED TO THE ACADEMIC STANDARDS PRESCRIBED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
2 PURSUANT TO SECTION 15-701.01.

3 F. IN ESTABLISHING ITS RULES REGARDING ADDITIONAL CREDIT FOR SPECIFIC
4 PERFORMANCE IN COURSES PURSUANT TO SUBSECTIONS C, D AND E OF THIS SECTION,
5 THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL PROVIDE VARYING AMOUNTS OF ADDITIONAL
6 CREDIT FOR EACH PERFORMANCE LEVEL ACHIEVED IN THE COURSE AS FOLLOWS:

7 1. A GRADE OF A OR ITS EQUIVALENT SHALL BE PROPORTIONALLY HIGHER THAN
8 A GRADE OF B OR ITS EQUIVALENT.

9 2. A GRADE OF B OR ITS EQUIVALENT SHALL BE PROPORTIONALLY HIGHER THAN
10 A GRADE OF C OR ITS EQUIVALENT.

11 3. GRADES LOWER THAN C OR ITS EQUIVALENT SHALL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR
12 ADDITIONAL CREDIT.

13 G. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "COMPETENCY TEST" MEANS A
14 COMPETENCY TEST REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION OF A PUPIL FROM HIGH SCHOOL
15 ESTABLISHED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 15-701.01,
16 SUBSECTION A, PARAGRAPH 3.

17 Sec. 2. Retroactivity

18 Section 15-701.02, Arizona Revised Statutes, as added by this act, is
19 effective retroactively to from and after December 31, 2007.

20 Sec. 3. Emergency

21 This act is an emergency measure that is necessary to preserve the
22 public peace, health or safety and is operative immediately as provided by
23 law.