

South Carolina General Assembly
122nd Session, 2017-2018

A54, R80, S462

STATUS INFORMATION

General Bill

Sponsors: Senator Hembree

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Introduced in the Senate on February 23, 2017

Introduced in the House on April 4, 2017

Last Amended on May 9, 2017

Passed by the General Assembly on May 10, 2017

Governor's Action: May 19, 2017, Signed

Summary: Uniform high school diplomas

HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

Date	Body	Action Description with journal page number
2/23/2017	Senate	Introduced and read first time (Senate Journal-page 6)
2/23/2017	Senate	Referred to Committee on Education (Senate Journal-page 6)
3/23/2017	Senate	Committee report: Favorable with amendment Education (Senate Journal-page 10)
3/30/2017	Senate	Committee Amendment Adopted (Senate Journal-page 34)
3/30/2017	Senate	Read second time (Senate Journal-page 34)
3/30/2017	Senate	Roll call Ayes-39 Nays-0 (Senate Journal-page 34)
3/31/2017		Scrivener's error corrected
4/4/2017	Senate	Read third time and sent to House (Senate Journal-page 17)
4/4/2017	House	Introduced and read first time (House Journal-page 7)
4/4/2017	House	Referred to Committee on Education and Public Works (House Journal-page 7)
4/27/2017	House	Recalled from Committee on Education and Public Works (House Journal-page 41)
5/3/2017	House	Requests for debate-Rep(s). Hayes, Atkinson, M Rivers, JE Smith, Bernstein, Hart, Weeks, Henegan, Cobb-Hunter, Williams, Jefferson, McCravy, West, Hewitt, King, Fry, Crawford, Brown, DC Moss, Mack, Anderson, Pope, White, Hosey, Clyburn, Kirby, Alexander, Thayer (House Journal-page 28)
5/9/2017	House	Amended (House Journal-page 174)
5/9/2017	House	Read second time (House Journal-page 174)
5/9/2017	House	Roll call Yeas-92 Nays-0 (House Journal-page 175)
5/10/2017	House	Read third time and returned to Senate with amendments (House Journal-page 34)
5/10/2017	Senate	Concurred in House amendment and enrolled (Senate Journal-page 66)
5/10/2017	Senate	Roll call Ayes-40 Nays-0 (Senate Journal-page 66)
5/15/2017		Ratified R 80
5/19/2017		Signed By Governor
5/25/2017		Effective date See Act
5/31/2017		Act No. 54

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VERSIONS OF THIS BILL

[2/23/2017](#)

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(A54, R80, S462)

AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 59-39-100, AS AMENDED, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE UNIFORM DIPLOMA FOR GRADUATES OF ACCREDITED HIGH SCHOOLS, SO AS TO PROVIDE PERSONALIZED PATHWAYS FOR STUDENTS TO EARN THE DIPLOMA AND TO PROVIDE RELATED COURSE OF STUDY-BASED ENDORSEMENTS STUDENTS MAY EARN, TO REVISE THE COURSEWORK STUDENTS ENTERING NINTH GRADE DURING THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR MUST EARN FOR GRADUATION, TO PROVIDE THIS REVISED COURSEWORK REQUIREMENT MUST SUPPORT THE PROFILE OF THE GRADUATE, TO PROVIDE FOR A UNIFORM EMPLOYABILITY CREDENTIAL AVAILABLE FOR CERTAIN STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO DIPLOMA PATHWAYS, AND TO PROVIDE THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL MONITOR NUMBERS OF DIPLOMAS AND EMPLOYABILITY CREDENTIALS EARNED BY STUDENTS AND BIANNUALLY REPORT SUCH NUMBERS TO THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

Diploma requirements revised, alternate credential created, reporting

SECTION 1. Section 59-39-100 of the 1976 Code, as last amended by Act 49 of 2005, is further amended to read:

“Section 59-39-100. (A) Diplomas issued to graduates of accredited high schools within this State must be uniform in every respect and particularly as to color, size, lettering, and marking. In accordance with Section 59-59-10, et seq., districts and schools shall provide students with personalized pathways for earning the uniform diploma, and students may earn endorsements based upon their course of study, which may be represented by seals added to the student’s uniform diploma. The State Board of Education shall promulgate regulations establishing these pathways and endorsements.

(B) Beginning with students entering the ninth grade in School Year 1997-1998, the number of units required for a high school diploma was

increased to twenty-four units. To support the Profile of the Graduate, for students entering the ninth grade beginning with the 2018-2019 School Year, the twenty-four units required are as prescribed in this section and in regulation by the State Board of Education.

(1) Students will continue to be required to earn the units of credit as prescribed in regulation and, when applicable, be offered national industry certifications or credentials.

(2) Coursework must be aligned with a student's personalized diploma pathway. The State Board of Education shall promulgate regulations that outline the process and procedures for approval of courses to personalize pathways based on students' postsecondary plans and include an annually updated course activity coding manual listing approved courses. The individualized graduation planning process must plan each student's personalized pathway based on his postsecondary plans.

(C) The State Board of Education, through the Department of Education and in collaboration with the Vocational Rehabilitation Department, the Department of Employment and Workforce, businesses, and stakeholders shall develop criteria for a uniform state-recognized employability credential that is aligned to the program of study for students with a disability whose Individualized Education Program (IEP) team determines, and agrees in writing, that a diploma pathway would not provide a free appropriate public education. The State Board of Education, in conjunction with the department, shall develop a rubric and guidelines to identify and assess the employability skills of the students, based on appropriate standards established. The credentials must be uniform in size, shape, and design.

(D) The department shall monitor the number of diplomas and employability credentials earned by students and shall report to the State Board of Education and the General Assembly biannually by February 15, beginning in 2020.

(E) Nothing in this section prohibits local school boards of trustees from awarding recognition to students who complete additional units and credits beyond those required by this section.”

Time effective

SECTION 2. This act takes effect with students entering ninth grade beginning with the 2018-2019 School Year.

Ratified the 15th day of May, 2017.

Approved the 19th day of May, 2017.

