

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 requirement, for high school graduation; authorizing a
 7 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 2017-2018 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 2017-2018 school year, a

51 student must earn one-half credit in health education. The
52 health education requirement may be waived if a student requests
53 to take a health education assessment and scores a "C" or
54 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 2017-2018 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, 2017.