



State of Tennessee
PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 488

HOUSE BILL NO. 837

By Representatives Lois DeBerry, Fitzhugh, Pitts, Naifeh, Hardaway, Stewart, Hurley, Johnnie Turner

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 1869

By Senators Kyle, Campfield

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, to enact the "Move on When Ready Act."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, is amended by adding Sections 2 through 6 as a new, appropriately designated part:

SECTION 2. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Move on When Ready Act."

SECTION 3. As used in this part, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) "AP" means the Advanced Placement Program offered by the College Board;

(2) "Conditional entry" means a student has met the requirements of Section 4 of this act, but the student is subject to completing existing academic requirements for admission into a specific program at the public four-year institution in which the student enrolls. A public four-year institution shall not impose additional course requirements beyond what is specified in Section 4 for general admission to the institution, except a student shall meet the required composite ACT score for general admission to the institution; and

(3) "IB" means the International Baccalaureate Programme.

SECTION 4.

(a) Beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, a public school student may complete an early high school graduation program and be eligible for unconditional entry into a public two-year institution of higher education or conditional entry into a public four-year institution of higher education, if the student meets the requirements of this section.

(b) Each student desiring to complete an early graduation program shall indicate to the high school principal the student's intent prior to the beginning of grade nine (9) or as soon thereafter as the intent is known. The intent shall be indicated on a form provided by the department of education and signed by the parent.

(c) For early graduation and unconditional entry into a public two-year institution or conditional entry into a public four-year institution, a student shall:

(1) Achieve a benchmark score as determined by the state board of education for each subject area in which end-of-course examinations are administered;

(2) Successfully complete eighteen (18) credits to include:

(A) English I, II, III, and IV;

(B) Algebra I and II;

- (C) Geometry;
- (D) United States history;
- (E) Two (2) courses in the same foreign language;
- (F) One (1) course selected from the following:
 - (i) Economics;
 - (ii) Government;
 - (iii) World civilization; or
 - (iv) World geography;
- (G) One (1) course selected from the following:
 - (i) History and appreciation of visual and performing arts;or
 - (ii) A standards-based arts course, which may include studio art, band, chorus, dance, or other performing arts;
- (H) Health;
- (I) Physical Education;
- (J) Biology;
- (K) Chemistry.

(3) Have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.2 on a 4-point scale;

(4) Score on either the ACT or the SAT at or above benchmarks set by the Tennessee higher education commission for mathematics and English;

(5) Obtain a qualifying benchmark score as determined by the state board of education on a world language proficiency assessment approved by the board; and

(6) Complete at least two (2) courses from the following types of courses:

- (A) AP;
- (B) IB;
- (C) Dual enrollment; or
- (D) Dual credit.

(d) The courses specified in subsection (c) may be dual enrollment or dual credit courses, AP or IB courses, or standard courses for which high school credit is granted. Selected courses, as determined by the state board of education, may be completed at the middle school level.

(e) A student in the early graduation program may take two (2) high school English courses in an academic year.

(f) A student who completes the early graduation program under this section qualifies for unconditional admittance to all public two-year institutions of higher

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education. A public four-year institution may accept a student who completes the early graduation program.

(g) A student pursuing early graduation under this section is exempt from additional graduation requirements established by the state board of education. A student who completes the early graduation program shall be awarded a high school diploma.

(h) Under subsection (c), the state board of education and the Tennessee higher education commission shall set the required benchmarks at scores that demonstrate exemplary high school performance and are indicative of an ability to perform college-level work.

SECTION 5. The state board of education or a local board of education shall not impose graduation requirements that would prohibit a student who is pursuing an early graduation program under Section 4 of this act from completing high school in less than four (4) years.

SECTION 6. A student who meets the requirements of the early high school graduation program under this part shall be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship; provided, that the student meets all nonacademic requirements for the scholarship of chapter 4, part 9 of this title that are applicable to the student.

SECTION 7. The state board of education and the Tennessee higher education commission are authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act. All such rules and regulations shall be promulgated in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

SECTION 8. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-930, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated subsection:

() Courses for which a dual enrollment grant is received may be taken at any time during the junior or senior year in high school.

SECTION 9. For the purpose of promulgating rules and regulations, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act shall take effect July 1, 2011, the public welfare requiring it.

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PASSED: May 21, 2011



BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 16th day of June 2011



BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR