

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed

Vote: 4 - 0 - 1

Yeas: Kruse, Metsger, Morse, Walker

Nays: 0

Exc.: Westlund

Prepared By: Dana Richardson, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 5/3, 5/22

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Modifies certain high school diploma requirements from years to credits. Requires award of modified diploma to student who meets State Board of Education requirements but does not satisfy diploma requirements. Requires award of alternative certificate to student who meets requirements established by school district board or public charter school but does not meet diploma requirements. Permits recipient of modified diploma or alternative certificate to participate in graduation ceremonies. Requires school district or public charter school to make modified or alternative diplomas first available during 2008-2009 school year. Requires district to give child with disabilities who has an individualized educational program an individualized summary of performance when child completes high school. Charges State Board of Education with developing rules for award of modified diplomas. Provides criteria to be eligible for modified diploma. Requires Board of Education to submit to legislative education committees proposed rules for diploma requirements, modified diplomas, or alternative certificates prior to adoption. Declares an emergency; effective July 1, 2007.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Preventing use of modified diplomas or alternative certificates for students who do not have a disability but have not met general graduation requirements
- Federal prohibition against issuing credentials specifically for students with individualized education plans
- Targeting students with individualized education plans in rule rather than statute
- Legislative oversight of State Board of Education rule-making
- Effective date of measure

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Charges State Board of Education with developing rules for award of modified diplomas. Provides criteria to be eligible for modified diploma including documented history of inability to maintain grade level achievement or documented history of medical condition that creates barrier to achievement. Requires Board of Education to submit to legislative education committees proposed rules for diploma requirements, modified diplomas, or alternative certificates prior to adoption. Resolves conflicts with HB 2263, regarding abolishing the Certificate of Initial Mastery and the Certificate of Advanced Mastery; HB 2606, directing school districts, at the request of a student and with the consent of student's parent or guardian, to award high school diploma to students who have satisfied graduation requirements in less than four years; SB 215, defining "person in parental relationship" for purposes of school district residency.

BACKGROUND: Currently, school districts may choose to issue modified diplomas but they are not required to do so. HB 2848A would require the award of modified diplomas and alternative certificates to any student who qualified under rules devised by the State Board of Education or by their school district or public charter school. It would also require districts to issue a document of successful completion of program requirements to students with individual education plans.

5/30/2007 2:32:00 PM

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.