

Date of Hearing: June 15, 2016

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
Patrick O'Donnell, Chair  
SB 1123 (Leyva) – As Introduced February 17, 2016

**SENATE VOTE:** 38-0

**SUBJECT:** Pupil instruction: high school graduation requirements

**SUMMARY:** Extends for five years the sunset on the option for students to fulfill a high school graduation requirement by successfully completing a career technical education (CTE) course. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Extends, from July 1, 2017 to July 1, 2022, the sunset on the option to fulfill a high school graduation requirement by successfully completing a CTE course.

**EXISTING LAW:**

- 1) Specifies requirements for graduation from high school, including three courses in English; two courses in mathematics; two courses in science; three courses in social studies; one course in visual or performing arts, foreign language, or CTE; and two courses in physical education.
- 2) Sunsets the option to fulfill a graduation requirement with a course in CTE on July 1, 2017.
- 3) Defines “a course in career technical education” as a course in a district-operated career technical education program that is aligned to the career technical model curriculum standards and framework adopted by the State Board of Education, including courses through a regional occupational center or program operated by a county superintendent of schools or pursuant to a joint powers agreement.
- 4) Requires the governing board of a school district or county office of education that elects to allow a career technical education course to satisfy a graduation requirement, before offering that alternative to students, to notify parents, teachers, students, and the public at a regularly scheduled meeting of the all of the following:
  - a) the intent to offer CTE courses to fulfill a graduation requirement
  - b) the impact that offering career technical education courses will have on the availability of courses that meet the eligibility requirements for admission to the California State University (CSU) and the University of California (UC), and whether the career technical education courses to be offered are approved to satisfy those eligibility requirements
- 5) Requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to submit a report to the Legislature, by July 1, 2017, on the effects of the addition of a career technical education courses to satisfy a graduation requirement.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** This bill is keyed non-fiscal.

**COMMENTS:**

***Need for the bill.*** The author's office states, "Under current law, students have the option of taking a CTE course to fulfill the existing high school graduation requirement to complete a course in visual or performing arts or foreign language. However, this option will expire on July 1, 2017 and negatively impact student's ability to participate in CTE based courses at school. This alternative gives students another choice in their education in order to help them stay engaged during high school. Research shows that students who complete both an academic and a career technical education sequence of courses in high school have a higher likelihood of being enrolled in postsecondary education and being employed in professional, managerial, or skilled jobs."

***Pending report on the effect of the CTE course option.*** Current law requires the CDE to submit a report to the Legislature, by July 1, 2017, on the addition of CTE courses to satisfy a graduation requirement. This bill extends the sunset on the CTE graduation requirement option to allow time for the Legislature to review the report prior to acting again on the sunset.

The report is required to include the following information:

- A comparison of the student enrollment in career technical education courses, foreign language courses, and visual and performing arts (VAPA) courses for the 2005-06 to 2011-12 school years to the enrollment in CTE courses, foreign language courses, and VAPA courses for the 2012-13 to 2016-17 school years.
- The reasons that students give for choosing to enroll in a CTE course to satisfy a graduation requirement, as reported by school districts.
- The type and number of CTE courses that were conducted for the 2005-06 to 2011-12 school years compared to the type and number of CTE courses that were conducted for the 2012-13 to 2016-17 school years.
- The number of CTE courses that satisfied the subject matter requirements for admission to the UC or the CSU.
- The extent to which the career technical education courses chosen by students are aligned with the California CTE standards, and prepare students for employment, advanced training, and postsecondary education.
- The number of CTE courses that also satisfy the VAPA requirement, and the number of CTE courses that also satisfy the foreign language requirement.
- Annual student dropout and graduation rates for the 2011-12 to 2014-15 school years.

***Increasing number of CTE courses approved as "a-g" courses.*** As noted above, current law requires the CDE to report to the Legislature on the number of CTE courses that satisfied the subject matter requirements for admission to the UC or the CSU, known as the "a-g" course requirements.

According to the CDE, there has been a marked increase in the number of CTE courses approved as "a-g" courses in recent years. In 2001 there were 258 approved courses, but by 2013 there

were over 10,000 such courses, representing 25% of the 40,000 CTE courses offered statewide. The largest number of approved courses were in the Arts, Media, and Entertainment category, followed by Agriculture and Natural Resources, and Health Science and Medical Technology.

**Prior legislation.** AB 1330 (Furutani), Chapter 621, Statutes of 2011, established the option for students to fulfill a high school graduation requirement by successfully completing a CTE course.

SB 253 (Wyland) of the 2009- 2010 Session would have added the option for students to fulfill the VAPA high school graduation requirement by successfully completing a career technical education course. SB 253 died on the Assembly Floor.

AB 2446 (Furutani) of the 2009-2010 Session would have added the option for students to fulfill the VAPA high school graduation requirement by successfully completing a career technical education course. AB 2446 was vetoed by Governor Schwarzenegger.

AB 554 (Furutani) of the 2009-2010 Session would have increased the number of courses required for high school graduation from 13 to 14 and offered students a choice between a VAPA course, foreign language, or career technical education to fulfill the additional course requirement. AB 554 was held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

SB 672 (Torlakson) of the 2007-2008 Session would have required high schools participating in the California Enhanced Instructional Time Program, as specified, to adopt a graduation policy requiring students to complete two career technical education courses. This bill failed in the Assembly Education Committee.

#### **REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

##### **Support**

Association of California School Administrators  
California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association  
California Business Education Association  
California Federation of Teachers  
Kern County Superintendent of Schools  
An individual

##### **Opposition**

None on file

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