

House Study Bill 580 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON JORGENSEN)

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act relating to high school graduation requirements.
- 2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.7, subsection 26, paragraph a,
2 subparagraph (1), Code 2014, is amended to read as follows:

3 (1) The rules establishing high school graduation
4 requirements shall authorize a school district or
5 accredited nonpublic school to consider that any student
6 who satisfactorily completes a high school-level unit of
7 English or language arts, mathematics, science, or social
8 studies has satisfactorily completed a unit of the high school
9 graduation requirements for that area as specified in this
10 lettered paragraph, and shall authorize the school district or
11 accredited nonpublic school to issue high school credit for
12 the unit to the student. For purposes of this subsection, an
13 advanced placement computer science course may be considered as
14 equivalent to a high school mathematics or science course.

15 Sec. 2. Section 280.3, Code 2014, is amended by adding the
16 following new subsection:

17 NEW SUBSECTION. 6. The board of directors of each public
18 school district and the authorities in charge of each nonpublic
19 school may approve and offer an advanced placement computer
20 science course as equivalent to a high school mathematics or
21 science course for purposes of the graduation requirements
22 established pursuant to section 256.7, subsection 26. However,
23 a student successfully completing an advanced placement
24 computer science course shall only be issued credit for the
25 course that counts toward meeting the graduation requirements
26 established pursuant to section 256.7, subsection 26, if the
27 student has also successfully completed an advanced mathematics
28 course.

29 EXPLANATION

30 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
31 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

32 This bill authorizes school districts and accredited
33 nonpublic schools to consider a unit of advanced placement
34 computer science to be equivalent to a unit of high school
35 mathematics or science for purposes of fulfilling high school

1 graduation requirements.

2 Currently, the state board of education is required to
3 authorize a school district or accredited nonpublic school to
4 consider that any student who satisfactorily completes a high
5 school-level unit of English or language arts, mathematics,
6 science, or social studies has satisfactorily completed a unit
7 of the high school graduation requirements for that area, and
8 to authorize the school district or school to issue high school
9 credit for the unit to the student. The bill adds that an
10 advanced placement computer science course may be considered as
11 equivalent to a high school mathematics or science course.

12 The bill authorizes school districts and accredited
13 nonpublic schools to approve and offer an advanced placement
14 computer science course as equivalent to high school
15 mathematics or science for purposes of the state board's
16 graduation requirements. However, a student successfully
17 completing an advanced placement computer science course shall
18 only be issued credit for the course that counts toward meeting
19 the graduation requirements established by the state board
20 if the student has also successfully completed an advanced
21 mathematics course.