**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 59‑39‑100, AS AMENDED, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO ISSUANCE OF DIPLOMAS BY ACCREDITED HIGH SCHOOLS, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT THE NUMBER OF UNITS REQUIRED FOR A STATE HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA IS TWENTY, TO REDESIGNATE A TWENTY-FOUR CREDIT DIPLOMA AS AN ADVANCED DIPLOMA, AND TO REQUIRE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ADOPT RULES AND PROMULGATE REGULATIONS NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE A MODIFIED HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA FOR STUDENTS WITH AN INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PLAN.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Section 59‑39‑100 of the 1976 Code, as last amended by Act 49 of 2005, is further amended to read:

“Section 59‑39‑100. (A) Diplomas issued to graduates of accredited high schools within this State must be uniform in every respect and particularly as to color, size, lettering, and marking. The number of units required for a state high school diploma is twenty units as prescribed by the State Board of Education by regulation. ~~Beginning in the 1986‑87 academic year,~~ A minimum of three units must be earned in mathematics and a minimum of two units must be earned in science.

(B) One unit in computer science, if approved by the State Department of Education for this purpose, may be counted toward the mathematics requirement.

(C) Students who earn one unit in science and six or more units in a specific occupational service area will meet the science requirements for a state high school diploma. Career and technology programs operating on a 3‑2‑1 structure may count pre‑career and technology education as one of the six required units.

(D) ~~Beginning with the ninth grade class of school year 1997‑98 in 2011‑2012,~~ The number of units required for a high school advanced diploma is twenty‑four units as prescribed by the State Board of Education by regulation, with one additional unit required in mathematics, science, and computer science to include keyboarding. For students in a college preparatory track, as defined by the state board, one additional unit must be earned in a foreign language; and for students in a track designed to enter the work force, as defined by the state board, one additional career and technology unit must be earned. ~~Beginning with the ninth grade class of school year 1997‑98,~~ If a student counts one unit of computer science toward his mathematics requirement as permitted above, one additional unit of computer science must be earned. (E) Nothing in this section prohibits local school boards of trustees from awarding recognition to students who complete additional units and credits beyond those required by this section.

(F) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules and promulgate regulations necessary to effectuate a modified high school diploma for students who have an Individualized Education Plan. The diploma must be tailored to the student’s Individualized Education Plan requirements; however, the diploma requirements must adhere to all state and federal regulations regarding the student’s educational program.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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