

Assembly Bill No. 318—Committee on Education

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to education; requiring the department of education to develop an informational pamphlet for the high school proficiency examination; requiring the distribution of the pamphlet to pupils and parents and legal guardians; requiring the department to establish a statewide program for use by schools and school districts in their preparation of pupils for the high school proficiency examination; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Chapter 389 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 and 3 of this act.

Sec. 2. 1. *The department shall develop an informational pamphlet concerning the high school proficiency examination for pupils who are enrolled in junior high, middle school and high school, and their parents and legal guardians. The pamphlet must include a written explanation of the:*

(a) Importance of passing the examination, including, without limitation, an explanation that if the pupil fails the examination he is not eligible to receive a standard high school diploma;

(b) Subject areas tested on the examination;

(c) Format for the examination, including, without limitation, the range of items that are contained on the examination;

(d) Manner by which the scaled score, as reported to pupils and their parents or legal guardians, is derived from the raw score;

(e) Timeline by which the results of the examination must be reported to pupils and their parents or legal guardians;

(f) Maximum number of times that a pupil is allowed to take the examination if he fails to pass the examination after the first administration; and

(g) Courses of study that the department recommends that pupils take to prepare the pupils to successfully meet the academic challenges of the examination and pass the examination.

2. The department shall review the pamphlet on an annual basis and make such revisions to the pamphlet as it considers necessary to ensure that pupils and their parents or legal guardians fully understand the examination.

3. On or before September 1, the department shall provide a copy of the pamphlet or revised pamphlet to the board of trustees of each school district and the governing body of each charter school that includes pupils enrolled in a junior high, middle school or high school grade level.

4. The board of trustees of each school district shall provide a copy of the pamphlet to each junior high, middle school or high school within the school district for posting. The governing body of each charter school shall ensure that a copy of the pamphlet is posted at the charter school. Each principal of a junior high, middle school, high school or charter school shall ensure that the teachers, counselors and administrators employed at the school fully understand the contents of the pamphlet.

5. On or before January 15, the:

(a) Board of trustees of each school district shall provide a copy of the pamphlet to each pupil who is enrolled in a junior high, middle school or high school of the school district and to the parents or legal guardians of such a pupil.

(b) Governing body of each charter school shall provide a copy of the pamphlet to each pupil who is enrolled in the charter school at a junior high, middle school or high school grade level and to the parents or legal guardians of such a pupil.

Sec. 3. 1. *The department shall establish a statewide program for use by schools and school districts in their preparation of pupils for the high school proficiency examination. The program must:*

(a) Be designed to ensure that pupils understand the format for the examination;

(b) Be designed to ensure that the actual examination is not included within the materials and other information used for preparation; and

(c) Specify the type of sample questions and practice items that may be included with the materials and other information used for preparation.

2. *Each school district, each middle school, junior high and high school within a school district and each charter school that provides instruction to pupils enrolled in a middle school, junior high or high school grade level, shall comply with the statewide program established pursuant to subsection 1. This subsection does not preclude a school or a school district from providing additional materials and information for preparation if the materials and information comply with the statewide program.*

Sec. 4. 1. On or before September 1, 2001, the department of education shall develop an informational pamphlet concerning the high school proficiency examination pursuant to section 2 of this act. On or before October 1, 2001, the department of education shall provide a copy of the pamphlet to the board of trustees of each school district and the governing body of each charter school that includes pupils who are enrolled in a junior high, middle school or high school grade level.

2. On or before September 1, 2001, the department of education shall establish a statewide program for use by schools and school districts in their preparation of pupils for the high school proficiency examination pursuant to section 3 of this act. On or before October 1, 2001, the department of education shall provide a detailed written explanation of the statewide program to the board of trustees of each school district and the governing body of each charter school that includes pupils who are enrolled in a junior high, middle school or high school grade level.

Sec. 5. 1. On or before January 15, 2002, the board of trustees of each school district and the governing body of each charter school that includes pupils who are enrolled in a junior high, middle school or high school grade level, shall provide a copy of the pamphlet developed pursuant to section 2 of this act to each pupil enrolled in a junior high, middle school or high school and to the parents or legal guardians of such a pupil.

2. Each school district, each middle school, junior high and high school within a school district and each charter school that provides

instruction to pupils enrolled in a middle school, junior high or high school grade level, shall comply with the statewide program for the preparation of pupils for the high school proficiency examination established by the department of education pursuant to section 3 of this act commencing with preparation that is provided for administrations of the examination in the spring semester of 2002.

Sec. 6. This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.