



HOUSE BILL 136: Arts High School Diploma Endorsement.

2023-2024 General Assembly

Committee:	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	March 7, 2023
Introduced by:	Reps. Elmore, K. Hall, Carney	Prepared by:	Samantha Yarborough Staff Attorney
Analysis of:	First Edition		

OVERVIEW: House Bill 136 would require the State Board of Education (SBE) to establish an arts proficiency high school diploma endorsement to be awarded to students meeting certain arts-education related criteria.

CURRENT LAW: G.S. 115C-12(9d) grants the SBE the authority to develop exit standards and graduation requirements. Section 2.5 of S.L. 2020-78 requires the SBE to include at least one arts education credit completed between grades 6 and 12 as a high school graduation requirement.

G.S. 115C-12(40) requires the SBE to establish high school diploma endorsements. The SBE has established the following endorsements: (i) Career, (ii) College, (iii) College/UNC, (iv) NC Academic Scholars, and (v) Global Languages. G.S. 115C-156.2 requires the SBE to annually report on high school diploma endorsements by November 15 to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee (JLEOC).

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 136 would recodify the SBE's powers to establish graduation requirements and high school diploma endorsements in a new Part 1D of Article 8 of Chapter 115C titled "High School Graduation."

The bill would require the SBE to establish a new high school diploma endorsement to encourage students to obtain a well-rounded, high-quality arts education. To receive this endorsement, a student would complete the following:

- At least 4 arts credits with at least a 3.0 unweighted GPA in each course.
- At least 40 hours of arts-related extracurricular activities outside of instructional hours and approved by the local board of education.
- Any additional criteria established by the SBE.

The SBE would be required to report to the JLEOC on the number of students receiving an arts proficiency high school diploma annually beginning with the report due November 15, 2024.

EFFECTIVE DATE: House Bill 136 is effective when it becomes law. The SBE would be required to make the arts proficiency high school diploma endorsement available beginning with students graduating in the 2023-2024 school year.

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