

State of Arizona
Senate
Fiftieth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2012

SENATE BILL 1254

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-792.03, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO THE BOARD EXAMINATION SYSTEM.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 15-792.03, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 15-792.03. Grand Canyon diploma

5 A. The private organization selected pursuant to section 15-792.02
6 shall develop the Grand Canyon diploma to be approved and adopted by the
7 state board of education. School districts and charter schools in this state
8 may choose to offer a Grand Canyon diploma beginning in the 2012-2013 school
9 year. A high school student who is enrolled in a school district or charter
10 school that offers a Grand Canyon diploma may choose to pursue a Grand Canyon
11 diploma.

12 B. Students are eligible for the Grand Canyon diploma and may be
13 awarded the Grand Canyon diploma at the end of grade ten or during or at the
14 end of grade eleven or twelve if the students meet the criteria. Students
15 who elect to pursue a Grand Canyon diploma shall participate in a board
16 examination system that consists of internationally benchmarked instructional
17 programs of study chosen by an interstate compact on board examination
18 systems.

19 C. Students who are eligible for a Grand Canyon diploma shall have
20 multiple pathways available to them and may:

21 1. Enroll the following fall semester in a community college under the
22 jurisdiction of a community college district in this state. Community
23 colleges under the jurisdiction of a community college district in this state
24 shall admit students who obtain a Grand Canyon diploma and who otherwise meet
25 the qualifications for admission. The school district or charter school from
26 which the student earned the Grand Canyon diploma shall include that student
27 in the school district's or charter school's student count and shall continue
28 to receive per pupil funding for a student who earns a Grand Canyon diploma
29 until that student would otherwise have graduated at the end of grade twelve,
30 as long as that student is enrolled as a full-time student in a community
31 college under the jurisdiction of a community college district in this
32 state. The school district or charter school shall subtract twenty per cent
33 of its average daily membership amount and reimburse the community college if
34 the student has earned a Grand Canyon diploma and is attending a community
35 college as a full-time student. If the student attends community college on
36 a community college campus, the school district or charter school shall
37 reimburse the community college district for the amount of operating and
38 capital outlay full-time student equivalency monies. For the purposes of
39 this paragraph, the amount of operating full-time student equivalency monies
40 shall be equivalent to the average appropriation per full-time student
41 equivalent for all community college districts as calculated pursuant to
42 section 15-1466, subsection C, paragraph 2. Fifty per cent of the remaining
43 balance of the per pupil funding shall be used for teacher and pupil
44 incentives, including scholarship programs, to offset the costs of board
45 examinations and to provide customized programs of assistance for students

1 who do not pass the board examinations. The other fifty per cent shall be
2 used for maintenance and operations, including capital. Under this
3 paragraph, a student who earns a Grand Canyon diploma is responsible for
4 tuition. A student who earns a Grand Canyon diploma may enroll in community
5 college courses offered on a community college campus or a high school
6 campus, or both. Notwithstanding any other law, community college districts
7 shall not classify a student who remains in high school pursuant to this
8 paragraph as a full-time equivalent student. Students who take courses on
9 high school campuses pursuant to this paragraph shall be eligible to
10 participate in extracurricular activities, including interscholastic sports,
11 through the end of grade twelve. The expenditure by community college
12 districts of payments from the school district or charter school to the
13 community colleges under this section shall not be included under the
14 district expenditure limitation prescribed pursuant to article IX, section
15 21, Constitution of Arizona. If the instruction provided under this
16 paragraph is offered on a community college campus, the funding and
17 implementation mechanics between the school district or charter school and
18 the community college shall be determined by agreement between the school
19 district or charter school and the community college.

20 2. Remain in high school and enroll in additional advanced preparation
21 board examination programs that are designed to prepare those students for
22 admission to selective postsecondary institutions that offer baccalaureate
23 degree programs. These board examination programs shall be selected from a
24 list approved by an interstate compact for board examination systems. The
25 school district or charter school from which the student became eligible for
26 the Grand Canyon diploma shall include that student in the school district's
27 or charter school's student count and shall continue to receive per pupil
28 funding for a student who is eligible for a Grand Canyon diploma until that
29 student would otherwise have graduated at the end of grade twelve, as long as
30 that student is enrolled in approved advanced preparation board examination
31 programs at that school district or charter school. Students who elect to
32 remain in high school pursuant to this paragraph shall not be prevented from
33 enrolling at a high school after the pupil becomes eligible for a Grand
34 Canyon diploma and shall be eligible to participate in extracurricular
35 activities, including interscholastic sports, through the end of grade
36 twelve.

37 3. Enroll in a full-time career and technical education program
38 offered on a high school campus or a joint technical education district
39 campus, or any combination of these campuses. Students who elect to remain
40 in high school pursuant to this paragraph shall not be prevented from
41 enrolling at a high school after the pupil becomes eligible for a Grand
42 Canyon diploma and shall be eligible to participate in extracurricular
43 activities, including interscholastic sports, through the end of grade
44 twelve. The school district or charter school from which the student became
45 eligible for the Grand Canyon diploma shall include that student in the

1 school district's or charter school's student count and shall continue to
2 receive per pupil funding for a student who is eligible for a Grand Canyon
3 diploma until that student would otherwise have graduated at the end of grade
4 twelve, as long as that student is enrolled in an approved full-time career
5 and technical education program. Notwithstanding any other law, if the
6 instruction provided under this paragraph is provided by a joint technical
7 education district in a full-time career and technical education program that
8 is designed to lead to a certificate that is awarded by an industry or
9 recognized as meeting industry standards, the sum of the average daily
10 membership for that pupil shall not exceed 1.25, and the average daily
11 membership shall be apportioned at 1.0 for the joint technical education
12 district and 0.25 for the school district.

13 4. Remain in high school without completing the next level of board
14 examination systems and participate in programs of study available to the
15 students through the school district or charter school. The school district
16 or charter school will continue to include the students in the school
17 district's or charter school's count and shall continue to receive per pupil
18 funding for the students until those students would have otherwise graduated
19 at the end of grade twelve, as long as those students are enrolled in
20 approved programs of study at that school district or charter school.
21 Students who elect to remain in high school pursuant to this paragraph shall
22 be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities, including
23 interscholastic sports.

24 5. IF ACCEPTED FOR ADMISSION TO A UNIVERSITY UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF
25 THE ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS, ENROLL IN THE UNIVERSITY AFTER COMPLETION OF
26 ADDITIONAL HIGH SCHOOL COURSEWORK DESIGNED TO PREPARE STUDENTS FOR ADMISSION
27 TO SELECTIVE POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS THAT OFFER BACCALAUREATE DEGREES.
28 THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL FROM WHICH THE STUDENT EARNED THE GRAND
29 CANYON DIPLOMA SHALL INCLUDE THAT STUDENT IN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S OR CHARTER
30 SCHOOL'S STUDENT COUNT AND SHALL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE PER PUPIL FUNDING FOR A
31 STUDENT WHO EARNS A GRAND CANYON DIPLOMA UNTIL THAT STUDENT WOULD OTHERWISE
32 HAVE GRADUATED AT THE END OF GRADE TWELVE FOR AS LONG AS THAT STUDENT IS
33 ENROLLED AS A FULL-TIME STUDENT IN THE UNIVERSITY. ONE-THIRD OF THE SCHOOL
34 DISTRICT'S OR CHARTER SCHOOL'S AVERAGE DAILY MEMBERSHIP AMOUNT SHALL BE
35 RETAINED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR THE OPERATOR OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL.
36 ONE-THIRD OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S OR CHARTER SCHOOL'S AVERAGE DAILY
37 MEMBERSHIP AMOUNT SHALL BE RETAINED FOR USE AT THE SCHOOL SITE. ONE-THIRD OF
38 THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S OR CHARTER SCHOOL'S AVERAGE DAILY MEMBERSHIP AMOUNT
39 SHALL BE DISTRIBUTED AS FOLLOWS:

40 (a) ONE-HALF SHALL BE DEPOSITED IN A SCHOLARSHIP ACCOUNT ESTABLISHED
41 AND MANAGED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT FROM WHICH THE STUDENT GRADUATED
42 SPECIFICALLY FOR A STUDENT WHO QUALIFIES FOR THE GRAND CANYON DIPLOMA AND WHO
43 ATTENDS A UNIVERSITY UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS
44 AS A FULL-TIME STUDENT.

1 (b) ONE-HALF SHALL BE RETAINED BY THE UNIVERSITY WHERE THE STUDENT IS
2 ENROLLED.

3 D. Students who pursue but do not meet the eligibility requirements
4 for a Grand Canyon diploma at the end of grade ten or eleven shall receive a
5 customized program of assistance during the next school year that addresses
6 areas in which the student demonstrated deficiencies in the approved board
7 examinations. These students may retake the board examinations at the next
8 available examination administration. Students may choose to return to a
9 traditional academic program without completing the board examination system
10 curriculum.

11 E. The private organization selected pursuant to section 15-792.02
12 shall develop detailed requirements for students to become eligible for the
13 Grand Canyon diploma, as approved and adopted by the state board of
14 education, that include at least the following:

15 1. Demonstrated skills and knowledge in English and mathematical
16 literacy to be successful in college level courses offered by the community
17 colleges in this state that count toward a degree or certificate without
18 taking remedial or developmental coursework as determined by an interstate
19 compact on board examination systems.

20 2. Satisfactory grades on approved board examinations in subjects
21 determined to be necessary to prepare a student to enter community college
22 without remedial or developmental coursework and that do not include
23 coursework required exclusively for entry into an institution that awards
24 baccalaureate degrees.

25 F. A student who obtains a Grand Canyon diploma pursuant to this
26 section is not eligible to participate in the early graduation scholarship
27 program established by section 15-105 if the student elects to pursue one of
28 the pathways prescribed in subsection C, paragraph 1, 2 or 3 of this section.
29 The department of education shall not transmit any monies to the commission
30 for postsecondary education pursuant to section 15-105, subsection F on
31 behalf of any student who obtains a Grand Canyon diploma pursuant to this
32 section if the student elects to pursue one of the pathways prescribed in
33 subsection C, paragraph 1, 2 or 3 of this section.