

SPECIALTY SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

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House Bill 5384 (H-1) reported from committee
Sponsor: Rep. Steven Johnson
Committee: Military, Veterans and Homeland Security
Complete to 3-21-22

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 5384 would amend the Revised School Code to allow a specialty school to count graduated pupils who serve in the United States Armed Forces, along with those who are enrolled in a postsecondary institution, toward a threshold measure that allows a specialty school to be exempt from certain curriculum requirements.

Currently under the code, a high school that is designated as a specialty school by the superintendent of public instruction must be found by the superintendent to meet specified requirements in order to be exempt from certain curriculum requirements. Among the requirements that must be met is that, for the most recent year for which the information is available, at least 75% of the pupils who graduated from the high school the preceding year are enrolled in a postsecondary institution.

The bill would amend this requirement to provide that at least 75% of the pupils who graduated the previous year must be enrolled in a postsecondary institution *or* serving in the ***Armed Forces of the United States***.

Armed Forces of the United States would mean the United States Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Space Force, or Coast Guard or other military force designated by Congress as part of the Armed Forces of the United States, including the reserve and National Guard components.

The bill also would replace references to the ACT examination with “applicable state assessment.” This reflects the use of the SAT to assess math¹ and the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP) to measure student performance relative to the Michigan Academic Standards in science.²

MCL 380.1278a

BRIEF DISCUSSION:

Proponents of the bill described it as a way to allow graduating high school students from specialty schools to enlist in any military branch instead of immediately attending college while keeping the school’s specialty school status. It is hoped that the bill would remove a barrier to allow for these enlistments. No arguments against the bill were presented during committee testimony.

¹ https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-22709_35150---.00.html.

² https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Guide_to_State_Assessments_622260_7.pdf.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill would have no fiscal impact on the state or on local school districts, intermediate school districts (ISDs), or public school academies (PSAs).

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.