Sixty-sixth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

SENATE BILL NO. 2136

Introduced by

Senators O. Larsen, Kannianen

Representatives Kasper, McWilliams

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 15.1-21-02 and 15.1-21-02.2 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to public and nonpublic high schools offering elective instruction on the Bible.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 15.1-21-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

15.1-21-02. High schools - Required units.

1. ~~In order to~~To be approved by the superintendent of public instruction, each public and nonpublic high school shall make available to each student:
   a. Four units of English language arts from a sequence that includes literature, composition, and speech;
   b. Four units of mathematics, including:
      (1) One unit of algebra II; and
      (2) One unit for which algebra II is a prerequisite;
   c. Four units of science, including:
      (1) One unit of physical science; and
      (2) One unit of biology;
   d. Four units of social studies, including:
      (1) One unit of world history;
      (2) One unit of United States history; and
      (3) (a) One unit of problems of democracy; or
          (b) One-half unit of United States government and one-half unit of economics;
   e. One-half unit of health;

f. One-half unit of physical education during each school year, provided that once every four years the unit must be a concept-based fitness class that includes instruction in the assessment, improvement, and maintenance of personal fitness;

g. Two units of fine arts, at least one of which must be music;

h. Two units of the same foreign or native American language;

i. One unit of an advanced placement course or one unit of a dual-credit course; ~~and~~

j. Two units of career and technical education from a coordinated plan of study recommended by the department of career and technical education and approved by the superintendent of public instruction; and

k. One-half unit of the old testament of the Bible or the new testament of the Bible, or one-half unit of instruction covering both the old and new testaments of the Bible.

2. In addition to the requirements of subsection 1, each public and nonpublic high school shall make available to each student, at least once every two years, one-half unit of North Dakota studies, with an emphasis on the geography, history, and agriculture of this state.

3. Each unit ~~which~~that must be made available under this section must meet or exceed the state content standards.

4. For purposes of this section, unless the context otherwise requires, "make available" means that:

a. Each public high school and nonpublic high school shall allow students to select units over the course of a high school career from a list that includes at least those required by this section;

b. If a student selects a unit from the list required by this section, the public high school or the nonpublic high school shall provide the unit to the student; and

c. The unit may be provided to the student through any delivery method not contrary to state law and may include classroom or individual instruction and distance learning options, including interactive video, computer instruction, correspondence courses, and postsecondary enrollment under chapter 15.1-25.

5. The board of a school district may not impose any fees or charges upon a student for the provision of or participation in units as provided in this section, other than the fees permitted by section 15.1-09-36.
6. If in order to meet the minimum requirements of this section a school district includes academic courses offered by a postsecondary institution under chapter 15.1-25, the school district shall:
   a. Pay all costs of the student's attendance, except those fees that are permissible under section 15.1-09-36; and
   b. Transport the student to and from the location at which the course is offered or provide mileage reimbursement to the student if transportation is provided by the student or the student's family.
7. The requirements of this section do not apply to alternative high schools or alternative high school education programs.
8. The requirements of subdivisions g and h of subsection 1 do not apply to the North Dakota youth correctional center.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 15.1-21-02.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

15.1-21-02.2. High school graduation - Minimum requirements.

Except as provided in section 15.1-21-02.3, the following twenty-two units of high school coursework constitute the minimum requirement for high school graduation:

1. Four units of English language arts from a sequence that includes literature, composition, and speech;
2. Three units of mathematics, which may include one unit of computer science approved by the superintendent of public instruction;
3. Three units of science, consisting of:
   a. (1) One unit of biology;
      (2) One unit of chemistry; and
      (3) One unit of physics; or
   b. (1) One unit of biology;
      (2) One unit of physical science; and
      (3) One unit or two one-half units of any other science;

4. Three units of social studies, ~~including~~of which any one-half unit may be replaced by Bible studies. Social studies units include:
   a. One unit of United States history;
   b. (1) One-half unit of United States government and one-half unit of economics; or
      (2) One unit of problems of democracy; and
   c. One unit or two one-half units of any other social studies, which may include civics, civilization, geography and history, multicultural studies, North Dakota studies, psychology, sociology, and world history;
5. a. One unit of physical education; or
   b. One-half unit of physical education and one-half unit of health;
6. Three units of:
   a. Foreign languages;
   b. Native American languages;
   c. Fine arts; or
   d. Career and technical education courses; and
7. Any five additional units.