

SENATE BILL No. 179

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 20-32-4.5.

Synopsis: Virtual instruction course requirement. Requires a student pursuing a Core 40 high school diploma to complete one virtual instruction course.

Effective: July 1, 2012.

Banks, Kruse

January 4, 2012, read first time and referred to Committee on Education and Career Development.

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Second Regular Session 117th General Assembly (2012)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2011 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

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SENATE BILL No. 179



A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning education.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 20-32-4.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
2 AS A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
3 JULY 1, 2012]:

4 **Chapter 4.5. Virtual Courses**

5 **Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "provider" means a provider**
6 **that offers virtual instruction courses consistent with Indiana**
7 **academic standards for Core 40 courses and whose teachers have**
8 **completed and submitted to the provider an expanded criminal**
9 **history check (as defined in IC 20-26-2-1.5).**

10 **Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "school corporation" means the**
11 **following:**

12 **(1) A school corporation (as defined in IC 20-26-2-4).**

13 **(2) A charter school established under IC 20-24.**

14 **Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "student" means a student**
15 **attending an Indiana public school and pursuing a Core 40**
16 **diploma.**

17 **Sec. 4. As used in this chapter, "virtual instruction course"**



1 means a Core 40 course or credit requirement adopted by the state
 2 board under IC 20-30-10 and provided in an interactive learning
 3 environment created through technology in which students are
 4 separated from their teachers by time or space, or both. The term
 5 includes courses taken by students in grades 6 through 12.

6 Sec. 5. (a) Beginning with the cohort (as defined in
 7 IC 20-26-13-2) of students who enter grade 9 for the first time in
 8 the school year beginning in 2013, a student must complete at least
 9 one (1) course or credit requirement toward a Core 40 diploma
 10 through a virtual instruction course before the student may be
 11 awarded a Core 40 diploma.

12 (b) Each school corporation shall provide at least three (3)
 13 virtual instruction courses in which a student may choose to enroll.
 14 The school corporation shall decide what courses to offer based
 15 upon the local needs of the school corporation's students and may
 16 align its offerings with a strategic and continuous school
 17 improvement and achievement plan developed under IC 20-31-5.

18 (c) A school corporation may not charge a student or a student's
 19 parent or guardian a fee for the sole purpose of defraying the cost
 20 of complying with this chapter.

21 (d) A school corporation is not required to pay any costs
 22 associated with a virtual instruction course taken by the student
 23 enrolled in the school corporation if the virtual instruction course
 24 is not provided by the school corporation under subsection (b).

25 (e) A student or the student's parent or guardian may choose to
 26 enroll the student in a virtual instruction course that is not offered
 27 by a school corporation under subsection (b) but otherwise meets
 28 the other requirements established under this chapter. If the
 29 virtual instruction course meets the requirement established under
 30 this chapter, the course counts toward the virtual instruction
 31 course requirement established in subsection (a).

32 (f) A student's transcript at the school in which the student is
 33 enrolled must include the credits earned and grades received for
 34 any virtual instruction courses the student has taken under this
 35 section.

36 Sec. 6. (a) The department may request to review an individual
 37 school corporation's virtual instruction course offerings and may
 38 determine whether the courses meet the requirements established
 39 under this chapter.

40 (b) The department shall work with each school corporation to
 41 assist the school corporation in meeting the requirements of this
 42 chapter without additional cost to the school corporation.

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- 1 **Sec. 7. The state board shall adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to**
- 2 **administer this chapter. The rules adopted under this section must**
- 3 **address the following:**
- 4 **(1) Enrollment in virtual instruction courses.**
- 5 **(2) Alignment of virtual instruction courses with the teacher**
- 6 **evaluation requirements established under IC 20-28-11.5.**
- 7 **(3) Transfer of student performance data between the school**
- 8 **corporation of residence and a virtual instruction course**
- 9 **provider.**
- 10 **(4) Evaluating this chapter's impact on student growth and**
- 11 **performance.**
- 12 **(5) Teacher certification requirements.**

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