

Senate Engrossed

**FILED**

**KEN BENNETT**

**SECRETARY OF STATE**

State of Arizona  
Senate  
Fiftieth Legislature  
Second Regular Session  
2012

CHAPTER 47

# **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.

APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR MARCH 20, 2012.

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE MARCH 20, 2012.

Passed the House March 15, 2012,

by the following vote: 49 Ayes,

10 Nays, 1 Not Voting

[Signature]  
Speaker of the House

[Signature]  
Chief Clerk of the House

Passed the Senate February 16, 2012,

by the following vote: 27 Ayes,

3 Nays, 0 Not Voting

[Signature]  
President of the Senate

[Signature]  
Assistant Secretary of the Senate

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA  
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR

This Bill was received by the Governor this

19<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2012

at 1:50 o'clock P M.

[Signature]  
Secretary to the Governor

Approved this 20<sup>th</sup> day of

March, 2012,

at 10:52 o'clock A M.

[Signature]  
Governor of Arizona

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE

This Bill was received by the Secretary of State

this 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2012,

at 4:53 o'clock P M.

[Signature]  
Secretary of State

S.B. 1254