An act to amend and repeal, and add Section 51225.3 of the Education Code, relating to pupils.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1731, as introduced, Alarcon. Pupils: graduation requirements. Existing law requires a pupil to complete, while in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, specified courses to receive a diploma of graduation from high school.

This bill, commencing with the 2007–08 school year, would increase the number of courses a pupil is required to complete to receive that diploma by requiring an additional year course in English and mathematics, 2 year courses in a foreign language, a year course in visual and performing arts, and a year course in specified elective subjects, unless a pupil is exempted. These requirements would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement, including the creation of a State Mandates Claims Fund to pay the costs of mandates that do not exceed $1,000,000 statewide and other procedures for claims whose statewide costs exceed $1,000,000.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.
The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. It is the intent of the Legislature to ensure that all high school graduates are prepared for entrance to postsecondary education institutions or the workforce, or both. It is also the intent of the Legislature that all high school pupils be afforded an opportunity to take a rigorous college preparatory curriculum with the option not to take the college curriculum and be fully cognizant that this option provides opportunities in vocational careers and education at the California Community Colleges.

SEC. 2. Section 51225.3 of the Education Code is amended to read:

51225.3. (a) Commencing with the 1988–89 school year, no pupil shall receive a diploma of graduation from high school who, while in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, has not completed all of the following:

1. At least the following numbers of courses in the subjects specified, each course having a duration of one year, unless otherwise specified.
   (A) Three courses in English.
   (B) Two courses in mathematics.
   (C) Two courses in science, including biological and physical sciences.
   (D) Three courses in social studies, including United States history and geography; world history, culture, and geography; a one-semester course in American government and civics, and a one-semester course in economics.
   (E) One course in visual or performing arts or foreign language. For the purposes of satisfying the requirement specified in this subparagraph, a course in American Sign Language shall be deemed a course in foreign language.
   (F) Two courses in physical education, unless the pupil has been exempted pursuant to the provisions of this code.

2. Other coursework as the governing board of the school district may by rule specify.
(b) The governing board, with the active involvement of parents, administrators, teachers, and pupils, shall adopt alternative means for pupils to complete the prescribed course of study which may include practical demonstration of skills and competencies, supervised work experience or other outside school experience, career technical education classes offered in high schools, courses offered by regional occupational centers or programs, interdisciplinary study, independent study, and credit earned at a postsecondary institution. Requirements for graduation and specified alternative modes for completing the prescribed course of study shall be made available to pupils, parents, and the public.

(c) This section shall become inoperative on July 1, 2007, and, as of January 1, 2008, is repealed, unless a later enacted statute that is enacted before January 1, 2008, deletes or extends the dates on which it becomes inoperative and is repealed.

SEC. 3. Section 51225.3 is added to the Education Code, to read:

51225.3. (a) Commencing with the 2007–08 school year and except as provided in subdivision (b), a pupil may not receive a diploma of graduation from high school if he or she has not completed, while in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, the following college curriculum which is required for admission to the state’s public colleges and universities:

1. At least the following numbers of courses in the subjects specified, each course having a duration of one year, unless otherwise specified.
   (A) Four courses in English.
   (B) Three courses in mathematics. Four courses are recommended. At a minimum, courses shall include topics contained in elementary and advanced algebra and two and three dimensional geometry.
   (C) Two courses in science, including biology, chemistry, or physics. Three courses are recommended.
   (D) Two courses in social studies, including a year course in United States history and geography; a year course in world history, culture, and geography; a one-semester course in American government and civics, and a one-semester course in economics.
   (E) One course in visual and performing arts.
(F) Two courses in physical education, unless the pupil has been exempted pursuant to the provisions of this code.
(G) Two courses in the same foreign language.
(H) One elective course in any of the following areas:
   (i) Visual and performing arts.
   (ii) History.
   (iii) Social science.
   (iv) English.
   (v) Advanced mathematics.
   (vi) Laboratory science.
   (vii) A language other than English.
(2) Such other coursework as the governing board of the school district may by rule specify.
(b) Instead of completing the college readiness requirements in subdivision (a), a pupil, his or her parent or guardian, and a school counselor or administrator may agree that the pupil will receive a diploma of graduation from high school by completing the following minimum requirements which will not preclude the pupil from enrolling in a community college upon graduation, but do not prepare the pupil to meet the requirements for admission to the University of California or the California State University:
   (1) At least the following numbers of courses in the subjects specified, each course having a duration of one year, unless otherwise specified.
      (A) Three courses in English.
      (B) Two courses in mathematics.
      (C) Two courses in science, including biological and physical sciences.
      (D) Three courses in social studies, including United States history and geography; world history, culture, and geography; a one-semester course in American government and civics, and a one-semester course in economics.
      (E) One course in visual or performing arts or foreign language. For the purposes of satisfying the requirement specified in this subparagraph, a course in American Sign Language shall be deemed a course in foreign language.
      (F) Two courses in physical education, unless the pupil has been exempted pursuant to the provisions of this code.
   (2) Such other coursework as the governing board of the school district may by rule specify.
(c) The governing board, with the active involvement of parents or guardians, administrators, teachers, and pupils, shall adopt alternative means for pupils to complete the prescribed course of study which may include practical demonstration of skills and competencies, supervised work experience or other outside school experience, vocational education classes offered in high schools, courses offered by regional occupational centers or programs, interdisciplinary study, independent study, and credit earned at a postsecondary institution. Requirements for graduation and specified alternative modes for completing the prescribed course of study shall be made available to pupils, parents, and the public.

(d) This section shall become operative on July 1, 2007.

SEC. 4. Notwithstanding Section 17610 of the Government Code, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code. If the statewide cost of the claim for reimbursement does not exceed one million dollars ($1,000,000), reimbursement shall be made from the State Mandates Claims Fund.