

# SB2354



## 102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

SB2354

Introduced 2/26/2021, by Sen. Sue Rezin

### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/27-22

from Ch. 122, par. 27-22

Amends the Courses of Study Article of the School Code. Adds forensic speech (speech and debate) to the music, art, foreign language, or vocational education elective that a pupil may choose to satisfy the one year prerequisite that each pupil entering the 9th grade is required to successfully complete to receive a high school diploma. Provides that a forensic speech course used to satisfy the course requirement in language arts may not be used to satisfy a forensic speech course chosen as an elective course.

LRB102 17155 CMG 22587 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT  
MAY APPLY

STATE MANDATES  
ACT MAY REQUIRE  
REIMBURSEMENT

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing Section  
5 27-22 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/27-22) (from Ch. 122, par. 27-22)

7 Sec. 27-22. Required high school courses.

8 (a) (Blank).

9 (b) (Blank).

10 (c) (Blank).

11 (d) (Blank).

12 (e) As a prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma,  
13 each pupil entering the 9th grade must, in addition to other  
14 course requirements, successfully complete all of the  
15 following courses:

16 (1) Four years of language arts.

17 (2) Two years of writing intensive courses, one of  
18 which must be English and the other of which may be English  
19 or any other subject. When applicable, writing-intensive  
20 courses may be counted towards the fulfillment of other  
21 graduation requirements.

22 (3) Three years of mathematics, one of which must be  
23 Algebra I, one of which must include geometry content, and

1 one of which may be an Advanced Placement computer science  
2 course. A mathematics course that includes geometry  
3 content may be offered as an integrated, applied,  
4 interdisciplinary, or career and technical education  
5 course that prepares a student for a career readiness  
6 path.

7 (4) Two years of science.

8 (5) Two years of social studies, of which at least one  
9 year must be history of the United States or a combination  
10 of history of the United States and American government  
11 and, beginning with pupils entering the 9th grade in the  
12 2016-2017 school year and each school year thereafter, at  
13 least one semester must be civics, which shall help young  
14 people acquire and learn to use the skills, knowledge, and  
15 attitudes that will prepare them to be competent and  
16 responsible citizens throughout their lives. Civics course  
17 content shall focus on government institutions, the  
18 discussion of current and controversial issues, service  
19 learning, and simulations of the democratic process.  
20 School districts may utilize private funding available for  
21 the purposes of offering civics education.

22 (6) One year chosen from (A) music, (B) art, (C)  
23 foreign language, which shall be deemed to include  
24 American Sign Language, ~~or~~ (D) vocational education, or  
25 (E) forensic speech (speech and debate). A forensic speech  
26 course used to satisfy the course requirement under

1       subdivision (1) may not be used to satisfy the course  
2       requirement under this subdivision (6).

3       (f) The State Board of Education shall develop and inform  
4 school districts of standards for writing-intensive  
5 coursework.

6       (f-5) If a school district offers an Advanced Placement  
7 computer science course to high school students, then the  
8 school board must designate that course as equivalent to a  
9 high school mathematics course and must denote on the  
10 student's transcript that the Advanced Placement computer  
11 science course qualifies as a mathematics-based, quantitative  
12 course for students in accordance with subdivision (3) of  
13 subsection (e) of this Section.

14       (g) This amendatory Act of 1983 does not apply to pupils  
15 entering the 9th grade in 1983-1984 school year and prior  
16 school years or to students with disabilities whose course of  
17 study is determined by an individualized education program.

18       This amendatory Act of the 94th General Assembly does not  
19 apply to pupils entering the 9th grade in the 2004-2005 school  
20 year or a prior school year or to students with disabilities  
21 whose course of study is determined by an individualized  
22 education program.

23       (h) The provisions of this Section are subject to the  
24 provisions of Section 27-22.05 of this Code and the  
25 Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act.

26       (i) The State Board of Education may adopt rules to modify

1 the requirements of this Section for any students enrolled in  
2 grades 9 through 12 if the Governor has declared a disaster due  
3 to a public health emergency pursuant to Section 7 of the  
4 Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act.

5 (Source: P.A. 100-443, eff. 8-25-17; 101-464, eff. 1-1-20;  
6 101-643, eff. 6-18-20.)