

CHAPTER 53**(HB 60)**

AN ACT relating to the awarding of high school diplomas to veterans.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

Section 1. KRS 158.140 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) When a pupil in any public elementary school or any approved private or parochial school completes the prescribed elementary program of studies, he is entitled to a certificate of completion signed by the teacher or teachers under whom the program was completed. The certificate shall entitle the pupil to admission into any public high school. Any promotions or credits earned in attendance in any approved public school are valid in any other public school to which a pupil may go, but the superintendent or principal of a school, as the case may be, may assign the pupil to the class or grade to which the pupil is best suited. In case a pupil transfers from the school of one (1) district to the school of another district, an assignment to a lower grade or course shall not be made until the pupil has demonstrated that he is not suited for the work in the grade or course to which he has been promoted.
- (2) Upon successful completion of all state and local board requirements, the student shall receive a diploma indicating graduation from high school.
- (3) A local school board may award a diploma indicating graduation from high school to any student posthumously with the high school class the student was expected to graduate.
- (4) A local board of education shall award ***an authentic***~~[a]~~ high school diploma to an honorably discharged veteran who~~[was enrolled in, but]~~ did not complete~~[,]~~ high school prior to being inducted into the United States Armed Forces during World War II, as defined in KRS 40.010, or the Korean conflict, as defined in KRS 40.010. Upon recommendation of the commissioner, the Kentucky Board of Education in consultation with the Kentucky Department of Veterans' Affairs shall promulgate administrative regulations to establish the guidelines for awarding these ***authentic*** diplomas.
- (5) The Department of Education shall establish the requirements for a vocational certificate of completion. A student who has returned to school after dropping out shall receive counseling concerning the vocational program. A student who has completed the requirements established for a vocational program shall receive a vocational certificate of completion specifying the areas of competence.

Approved March 11, 2005.