

ACT 187

H.B. NO. 78

A Bill for an Act Relating to Basic Skills and Real-Life Skills in the Public Schools.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. Purpose. The purpose of this Act is to provide for the establishment of a citizens advisory committee on basic skills and real-life skills to advise the legislature on the kinds of skills that students graduating from public schools should possess. The legislature finds that many adults and young people lack proficiency in the basic skills of reading, writing, and computation and are unable to successfully complete those tasks which are common to everyday life, such as the selection of the most economical loan, the accurate completion of an income tax return, the accurate balancing of a checking account, the most effective answers to job notices, and the understanding of such contracts as standard rental and purchase agreements. The widespread inability of both the adult and young adult population to adequately perform such tasks has led the legislature to conclude that the teaching of basic skills and their application to real-life situations must be improved. Moreover, the increasing public demand for a minimum level of demonstrated competency as a condition for graduation from high school must be acknowledged. The legislature believes that the establishment and achievement of minimum competencies in the basic skills and the performance of practical tasks are urgent and necessary if students are to function adequately as consumers and citizens in the real world.

SECTION 2. There is hereby created a citizens advisory committee which shall advise the legislature on the kinds of skills and the levels of proficiency which are necessary to enable the graduates of public schools to function adequately in the adult world.

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The committee shall be composed of eleven members appointed by the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives. The committee shall elect a chairman and vice-chairman from among its members. A majority of the members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

Members of the committee shall serve without compensation.

SECTION 3. The committee shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the legislature within ten days after the convening of the 1978 session of the legislature. Ninety days after the submission of its report to the legislature, the committee shall cease to exist.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved June 8, 1977.)