



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 559

February Session, 2026

Substitute Senate Bill No. 222

Senate, April 9, 2026

The Committee on Education reported through SEN. MCCRORY, D. of the 2nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT PERMITTING SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO OFFER AN EXEMPTION FROM THE PHYSICAL EDUCATION CREDIT REQUIREMENT TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATE IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (f) of section 10-221a of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
3 *2026*):

4 (f) (1) Any student who presents a certificate from a physician,
5 physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse stating that, in
6 the opinion of the physician, physician assistant or advanced practice
7 registered nurse, participation in physical education is medically
8 contraindicated because of the physical condition of such student, shall
9 be excused from the physical education requirement, provided the
10 credit for physical education may be fulfilled by an elective.

11 (2) Any student who participates in interscholastic athletics may be
12 exempt from the physical education and wellness requirement under

13 subdivision (3) of subsection (d) of this section, provided such
14 exemption is permitted pursuant to a policy adopted by the local or
15 regional board of education of the school district in which such student
16 is enrolled. Any student who receives such exemption shall still be
17 responsible for completing a minimum of twenty-five credits in order to
18 graduate from high school or be granted a diploma under this section.

| | | |
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| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
| Section 1 | July 1, 2026 | 10-221a(f) |

ED *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill, which allows local and regional boards of education (BOEs) to waive the physical education and wellness graduation requirement for students who participate in interscholastic athletics, has no fiscal impact. Because the graduation credit requirement remains unchanged, no changes in BOE staffing levels are anticipated.

The Out Years**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 222*****AN ACT PERMITTING SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO OFFER AN EXEMPTION FROM THE PHYSICAL EDUCATION CREDIT REQUIREMENT TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATE IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill allows local or regional boards of education (school boards) to adopt a policy to exempt students who participate in interscholastic athletics from the physical education and wellness graduation requirement (currently, one credit).

By law, students must complete at least 25 credits to graduate from high school, including at least (1) nine credits in humanities, including civics and the arts; (2) nine credits in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; (3) one credit in health and safety education; (4) one credit in world languages; and (5) a half credit in personal financial management and financial literacy (CGS § 10-221a). The bill retains the requirement that students complete 25 credits, so students who receive the physical education exemption must complete another credit in its place.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 34 Nay 12 (03/18/2026)