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H.B. 250
135th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Passed By the House

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Miranda and Richardson

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SUMMARY

- Renames the “Military Enlistment Seal” to the “Military Seal.”
- Establishes new pathways for a high school student to earn the seal.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Military seal

The bill renames the “Military Enlistment diploma seal” to the “Military diploma seal.” It permits a school district that purchased state diploma seals that include the text “Military Enlistment Seal” prior to the bill’s effective date to continue to attach or affix those seals to high school diplomas after that date.

The bill also establishes new pathways for a high school student to earn the Military diploma seal. The student may use that diploma seal to help qualify for a high school diploma (see “**Background**” below).

Under the bill, a student may earn a Military diploma seal by providing evidence that the student has either accepted a scholarship to enter the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) or been appointed to a United States military service academy. Otherwise, continuing law requires a student to provide evidence the student has enlisted in the U.S. armed services or participates in a Junior Reserve Officer Corps (JROTC) program.¹

¹ R.C. 3313.6114(C)(3).

Background

In addition to meeting the state’s minimum curriculum requirements, continuing law generally requires high school students to demonstrate competency in math and English language arts and earn at least two diploma seals to qualify for a high school diploma.

Continuing law prescribes a system of 12 diploma seals, divided among two categories: state-defined diploma seals and locally defined diploma seals. Both types of diploma seals have requirements prescribed in statute, but a state actor, usually the Department of Education and Workforce, is often involved in implementing the requirements for state-defined seals. For locally defined seals, the requirements are implemented by the student’s school. There are nine state-defined seals and three locally defined seals; a district or school must adopt guidelines for at least one locally defined seal. At least one of the diploma seals a student earns must be state-defined.

The currently entitled Military Enlistment diploma seal is a state-defined seal.²

HISTORY

| Action | Date |
|--|----------|
| Introduced | 08-01-23 |
| Reported, H. Primary & Secondary Education | 10-11-23 |
| Passed House (94-0) | 11-15-23 |

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² For more information, the Department of Education’s guidance about graduation requirements is available [here](#).