**South Carolina General Assembly**

119th Session, 2011-2012

**A98, R36, S686**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

Joint Resolution

Sponsors: Education Committee

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Companion/Similar bill(s): 642

Introduced in the Senate on March 10, 2011

Introduced in the House on March 29, 2011

Passed by the General Assembly on April 27, 2011

Governor's Action: May 6, 2011, Signed

Summary: Science requirements for diploma

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

 Date Body Action Description with journal page number

 3/10/2011 Senate Introduced, read first time, placed on calendar without reference ([Senate Journal‑page 4](file:///h%3A%5Csj%20archive%5C2011%5C03-10-11.docx))

 3/11/2011 Scrivener's error corrected

 3/22/2011 Senate Read second time ([Senate Journal‑page 16](file:///h%3A%5Csj%20archive%5C2011%5C03-22-11.docx))

 3/22/2011 Senate Roll call Ayes‑39 Nays‑0 ([Senate Journal‑page 16](file:///h%3A%5Csj%20archive%5C2011%5C03-22-11.docx))

 3/23/2011 Senate Read third time and sent to House ([Senate Journal‑page 7](file:///h%3A%5Csj%20archive%5C2011%5C03-23-11.docx))

 3/29/2011 House Introduced and read first time ([House Journal‑page 22](file:///h%3A%5Chj%20archive%5C2011%5C03-29-11.docx))

 3/29/2011 House Referred to Committee on **Education and Public Works** ([House Journal‑page 22](file:///h%3A%5Chj%20archive%5C2011%5C03-29-11.docx))

 4/13/2011 House Committee report: Favorable **Education and Public Works** ([House Journal‑page 47](file:///h%3A%5Chj%20archive%5C2011%5C04-13-11.docx))

 4/26/2011 House Read second time ([House Journal‑page 92](file:///h%3A%5Chj%20archive%5C2011%5C04-26-11.docx))

 4/26/2011 House Roll call Yeas‑101 Nays‑1 ([House Journal‑page 92](file:///h%3A%5Chj%20archive%5C2011%5C04-26-11.docx))

 4/27/2011 House Read third time and enrolled ([House Journal‑page 13](file:///h%3A%5Chj%20archive%5C2011%5C04-27-11.docx))

 5/5/2011 Ratified R 36

 5/6/2011 Signed By Governor

 5/13/2011 Effective date 05/06/11

 8/23/2011 Act No. 98

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[3/10/2011](file:///p%3A%5Cpprever%5C2011-12%5C686_20110310.docx)

[3/10/2011-A](file:///p%3A%5Cpprever%5C2011-12%5C686_20110310A.docx)

[3/11/2011](file:///p%3A%5Cpprever%5C2011-12%5C686_20110311.docx)

[4/13/2011](file:///p%3A%5Cpprever%5C2011-12%5C686_20110413.docx)

(A98, R36, S686)

**A JOINT RESOLUTION TO CLARIFY THE SCIENCE COURSE REQUIREMENT FOR RECEIVING A SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA.**

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

**Physical science to biology course requirement transition**

SECTION 1. The State is transitioning from requiring all students to take physical science with its associated end‑of‑course test to requiring students to take biology with its associated end‑of‑course test.

**Current science requirement**

SECTION 2. Section 59‑18‑310 requires students to pass a science course in a subject in which the end‑of‑course assessment is administered to earn a state high school diploma.

**Lack of clarity in science requirement**

SECTION 3. The State Board of Education further defined the high school diploma requirement to be the course in which a federally approved end‑of‑course test is administered. Currently, the federal government has not given final approval to the biology assessment, although the biology end‑of‑course exam is being administered to meet federal accountability requirements. Due to the delay by the federal government, there is lack of clarity and certainty as to which course is required for graduation.

**Physical science or biology course satisfies requirement**

SECTION 4. To provide clarity and certainty for high school students, for the graduation classes of 2011 and 2012, students who earn a unit of credit in either biology or physical science shall count that course credit as the required science course for graduation purposes.

**Time effective**

SECTION 5. This joint resolution takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

Ratified the 5th day of May, 2011.

Approved the 6th day of May, 2011.

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