An Act relating to schools; requiring study and recommendations to the Legislature regarding certain graduation standards; providing study purpose; providing study contents; requiring engagement with stakeholders in crafting recommendations; requiring submission of recommendations by certain time; providing for codification; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 11-103.6a-2 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The State Board of Education, in consultation with the State Regents for Higher Education and the State Board of Career and Technology Education, shall conduct a study and make recommendations to the Legislature regarding possible changes to the units or sets of competencies required for students to graduate with a standard diploma as provided in Section 11-103.6 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes. The purpose of the study shall be to ensure students receive a well-rounded education and give school districts, schools
and ultimately students greater flexibility in choosing courses that are aligned to a student's academic and career goals as provided in Section 1210.508-4 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

B. The study shall include, but is not limited to, review of the extent to which the following principles exist in the current graduation requirements and recommendations for improvement:

1. Course options lead to a well-rounded education, promoting an engaged and informed citizenry;

2. The high school experience is relevant for students' futures;

3. Diploma requirements are aligned to college and career readiness;

4. Diploma requirements effectively serve the needs of students with disabilities;

5. Course options have appropriate rigor to prepare students for their next steps after high school graduation;

6. Units or sets of competencies are aligned, to the extent necessary, to career pathways between common education, career and technology education and higher education;

7. Personalized learning and personalized pathways to graduation are available to students;

8. Access to and use of apprenticeships, internships and mentorships as provided in Section 1210.528-1 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes;
9. Access to advanced coursework, including, but not limited to, concurrent or dual enrollment and advanced placement courses;

10. Access to career and technology education courses that lead to industry certification; and

11. Feasibility of incorporating new units or sets of competencies, including computer science, health education and personal financial literacy.

C. The Board shall engage stakeholders in crafting any recommendations, which shall include educators, business members and community partners.

D. The Board shall submit any recommendations prior to the start of the 2021 Legislative Session and may continue the study and to make recommendations thereafter as needed.

SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.
Passed the House of Representatives the 3rd day of March, 2020.

Presiding Officer of the House of Representatives

Passed the Senate the ___ day of __________, 2020.

Presiding Officer of the Senate