

H.66

An act relating to including secondary students with disabilities in senior year activities and ceremonies

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 2944(g)–(i) are added to read:

(g) Any public or approved independent secondary school receiving state education funds shall allow an enrolled student to choose to participate in the graduation ceremony and senior year activities of the student’s peers if:

(1) the student is receiving specialized instruction or services, from or through the school, described in an individualized education plan (“IEP”) or a Section 504 plan;

(2) under the IEP or Section 504 plan, the student will need to remain enrolled in the school after that graduation ceremony in order to complete his or her secondary education, including special education and transition services; and

(3) the student, as a result of his or her disability or impairment, needs to remain enrolled in the school after that graduation ceremony in order to complete his or her secondary education.

(h) A student who participates in a graduation ceremony pursuant to subsection (g) of this section shall not receive a diploma as part of that ceremony, but shall receive a certificate of recognition in a form determined by

the school. If on an IEP, the student shall receive a regular high school diploma upon satisfactory completion of all necessary graduation requirements and at a time determined by the IEP team. If on a Section 504 plan, the student shall receive a regular high school diploma upon satisfactory completion of all necessary graduation requirements. Unless a school determines otherwise, a student may participate in no more than one graduation ceremony.

(i) A student's participation in a graduation ceremony pursuant to subsection (g) of this section shall not affect or limit the student's eligibility for special education services, related services, transition services, or Section 504 services following the ceremony.