

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0196

Civics proficiency examination.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Clem, Halverson, Jaggi and Miller and Senator(s) Meier

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to high school graduation; requiring
2 passage of an examination as specified; and providing for
3 an effective date.

4

5 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

6

7 **Section 1.** W.S. 21-2-304(a)(iv)(intro) and 21-9-102
8 are amended to read:

9

10 **21-2-304. Duties of the state board of education.**

11

12 (a) The state board of education shall:

13

14 (iv) Effective school year 2013-2014, and each
15 school year thereafter, require district administration of

1 common benchmark adaptive assessments statewide in reading
2 and mathematics for grades one (1) through eight (8) in
3 accordance with W.S. 21-3-110(a)(xxiv). The board shall
4 also establish, in consultation with local school
5 districts, requirements for students to earn a high school
6 diploma as measured by each district's assessment system
7 prescribed by rule and regulation of the state board and
8 required under W.S. 21-3-110(a)(xxiv). Beginning school
9 year 2016-2017, and each school year thereafter, the
10 requirements to earn a high school diploma shall include
11 completion of the examination required under W.S. 21-9-102.
12 Beginning school year 2014-2015, and each school year
13 thereafter, each district's assessment system shall include
14 a measure or multiple measures for purposes of determining
15 completion of high school graduation requirements. The
16 state board shall by rule and regulation establish
17 guidelines for district development of this measure or
18 measures, and shall through the department of education,
19 provide support to districts in developing each district's
20 measure or measures. The state board shall through the
21 department, annually review and approve each district's
22 assessment system designed to determine the various levels
23 of student performance and the attainment of high school

1 graduation requirements. A high school diploma shall
2 provide for one (1) of the following endorsements which
3 shall be stated on the transcript of each student:
4

5 **21-9-102. Instruction in state and federal**
6 **constitutions required; satisfactory examination a**
7 **prerequisite to graduation.**

8
9 (a) All schools and colleges in this state that are
10 supported in any manner by public funds shall give
11 instruction in the essentials of the United States
12 constitution and the constitution of the state of Wyoming,
13 including the study of and devotion to American institution
14 and ideals, and no student shall receive a high school
15 diploma, associate degree or baccalaureate degree without
16 satisfactorily passing an examination on the principles of
17 the constitution of the United States and the state of
18 Wyoming. The instruction shall be given for at least three
19 (3) years in kindergarten through grade eight (8) and for
20 one (1) year each in the secondary and college grades.
21

22 (b) Beginning school year 2016-2017 and each school
23 year thereafter, the examination required to receive a high

1 school diploma under subsection (a) of this section on the
2 essentials of the United States constitution, hereby known
3 as "civics test", shall consist of the one hundred (100)
4 questions that, as of January 1, 2015, officers of the
5 United States citizenship and immigration services use to
6 demonstrate applicants possess a knowledge and
7 understanding of the fundamentals of the history,
8 principles and form of government of the United States
9 under 8 U.S.C. Section 1423. Every student shall answer at
10 least sixty percent (60%) of the questions correctly to
11 receive a Wyoming high school diploma. This requirement
12 applies to each student enrolled in a public school
13 district or pursuing a general equivalency diploma. Each
14 student in grades nine (9) through twelve (12) must be
15 provided with an opportunity to take the civics test at
16 least one (1) time per school calendar. A student may take
17 the test at any time after enrolling in the grade nine (9)
18 and may repeat the test as often as necessary to
19 demonstrate proficiency. This requirement shall not apply
20 to students exempted pursuant to an individualized
21 education plan under the federal Individuals with
22 Disabilities Act.

23

1 **Section 2.** This act is effective July 1, 2015.

2

3

(END)