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 passage of an examination as specified; and providing for an effective date.

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

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

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

(a) The state board of education shall:

(iv) Effective school year 2013-2014, and each school year thereafter, require district administration of
common benchmark adaptive assessments statewide in reading
and mathematics for grades one (1) through eight (8) in
accordance with W.S. 21-3-110(a)(xxiv). The board shall
also establish, in consultation with local school
districts, requirements for students to earn a high school
diploma as measured by each district's assessment system
prescribed by rule and regulation of the state board and
required under W.S. 21-3-110(a)(xxiv). **Beginning school
year 2016-2017, and each school year thereafter, the
requirements to earn a high school diploma shall include
completion of the examination required under W.S. 21-9-102.**
Beginning school year 2014-2015, and each school year
thereafter, each district's assessment system shall include
a measure or multiple measures for purposes of determining
completion of high school graduation requirements. The
state board shall by rule and regulation establish
guidelines for district development of this measure or
measures, and shall through the department of education,
provide support to districts in developing each district's
measure or measures. The state board shall through the
department, annually review and approve each district's
assessment system designed to determine the various levels
of student performance and the attainment of high school
graduation requirements. A high school diploma shall provide for one (1) of the following endorsements which shall be stated on the transcript of each student:

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

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

(b) Beginning school year 2016-2017 and each school year thereafter, the examination required to receive a high
school diploma under subsection (a) of this section on the essentials of the United States constitution, hereby known as "civics test", shall consist of the one hundred (100) questions that, as of January 1, 2015, officers of the United States citizenship and immigration services use to demonstrate applicants possess a knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of the history, principles and form of government of the United States under 8 U.S.C. Section 1423. Every student shall answer at least sixty percent (60%) of the questions correctly to receive a Wyoming high school diploma. This requirement applies to each student enrolled in a public school district or pursuing a general equivalency diploma. Each student in grades nine (9) through twelve (12) must be provided with an opportunity to take the civics test at least one (1) time per school calendar. A student may take the test at any time after enrolling in the grade nine (9) and may repeat the test as often as necessary to demonstrate proficiency. This requirement shall not apply to students exempted pursuant to an individualized education plan under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Act.
Section 2. This act is effective July 1, 2015.