

As Amended by House Committee

Session of 2021

HOUSE BILL No. 2039

By Representative Huebert

1-6

1 AN ACT concerning education; relating to civics instruction; requiring  
2 students to pass a civics examination for high school graduation;  
3 amending K.S.A. 72-3217 and repealing the existing section.  
4

5 **WHEREAS, To cultivate a commitment to civic participation and**  
6 **to become active members of communities, students need regular**  
7 **opportunities to engage in civic learning activities; and**

8 **WHEREAS, Opportunities for civic engagement must be part of a**  
9 **systematic approach that includes the school, classrooms, teachers and**  
10 **students; and**

11 **WHEREAS, The legislature supports the civic advocacy network**  
12 **established by the state board of education as a way to recognize**  
13 **exemplary schools and school districts that have made civic**  
14 **engagement an integral part of the school culture; and**

15 **WHEREAS, The state board of education discontinued the 60-item**  
16 **objective history, government and social studies assessment and**  
17 **implemented a subjective performance task assessment; and**

18 **WHEREAS, To assist with future educational policies designed to**  
19 **promote and enhance civics education in schools, some objective**  
20 **measurable results are necessary to assess whether all students are**  
21 **receiving basic civics knowledge and skills; and**

22 **WHEREAS, A free and publicly available civics practice test**  
23 **consisting of 20 multiple choice questions that school districts and**  
24 **educators may use to implement the provisions of this act can be**  
25 **accessed through the United States citizenship and immigration**  
26 **services website at <https://my.uscis.gov/prep/test/civics>.**

27 **Now, therefore:**

28 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

29 Section 1. K.S.A. 72-3217 is hereby amended to read as follows: 72-  
30 3217. (a) All accredited schools, public, private or parochial, shall provide  
31 and give a complete course of instruction to all ~~pupils~~ *students*, in civil  
32 government; and United States history, and in patriotism and the duties of  
33 a citizen, suitable to the elementary grades; ~~in addition thereto.~~

34 (b) (1) All accredited high schools, public, private or parochial, shall  
35 give a course of instruction concerning the government and institutions of  
36 the United States, and particularly of the constitution of the United States;

1 ~~and no.~~ Such course of instruction shall require students to pass a  
2 basic civics test, or series of tests, comprising a total of 60 questions  
3 selected randomly from the questions of the civics examination  
4 administered by the United States citizenship and immigration  
5 services. Such test or tests may be administered through the multiple  
6 choice civics practice tests provided online by the United States  
7 citizenship and immigration services. Any student who has not taken and  
8 satisfactorily passed such course shall *not* be certified as having completed  
9 the course requirements necessary for graduation from high school.

10 ~~(c) (1) All students who enroll in grade nine in any accredited public,~~  
11 ~~private or parochial high school on or after July 1, 2021, shall be required~~  
12 ~~to pass an examination on the principles of American civics. The~~  
13 ~~examination shall consist of 100 questions that are substantially similar to~~  
14 ~~the questions administered by the United States citizenship and~~  
15 ~~immigration services to applicants for United States citizenship through~~  
16 ~~naturalization. Any student who does not satisfactorily pass such~~  
17 ~~examination shall not be certified as having completed the course~~  
18 ~~requirements necessary for graduation from high school.~~

19 ~~(2) Upon request, a student may be administered the examination at~~  
20 ~~any time after such student has enrolled in grade seven, and may take the~~  
21 ~~examination as often as necessary to obtain a passing score. The~~  
22 ~~examination may be administered as part of the instruction required under~~  
23 ~~subsection (b).~~

24 (2) Each accredited high school shall submit to the state board of  
25 education an annual report that provides aggregate student  
26 achievement data for the basic civics testing required pursuant to this  
27 subsection. The state board shall compile such reports, prepare a  
28 summary report and submit such report to the legislature on or before  
29 January 31 of each year. All data submitted pursuant to this  
30 paragraph shall comply with the provisions of the student data  
31 privacy act in K.S.A. 72-6312 et seq., and amendments thereto.

32 (3) *The applicability of this subsection and the extent to which*  
33 *accommodations are provided, if any, to a student with an individualized*  
34 *education program (IEP) shall be governed by such student's IEP.*

35 (4) *The state board of education may adopt rules and regulations to*  
36 *implement the provisions of this subsection, including, but not limited to,*  
37 *providing a model examination for use by any school district or the*  
38 *governing body of any accredited private or parochial high school and*  
39 *establishing the passing score for any such model examination.*

40 Sec. 2. K.S.A. 72-3217 is hereby repealed.

41 Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its  
42 publication in the statute book.