

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0133

Civics proficiency examination.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Clem, Brown, Edwards, Halverson, Henderson, Lone and Miller and Senator(s) Coe, Meier and Pappas

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to education; requiring passage of an
2 examination on the principles of the constitution of the
3 United States and the state of Wyoming to receive a high
4 school diploma, associate degree, baccalaureate degree or
5 high school equivalency certificate; specifying examination
6 requirements and composition; providing legislative
7 findings; and providing for an effective date.

8

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

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11 **Section 1.** W.S. 21-9-102 is amended to read:

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13 **21-9-102. Instruction in state and federal**
14 **constitutions required; satisfactory examination a**

1 prerequisite to graduation and high school equivalency
2 certification; composition of examination.

3
4 (a) The state of Wyoming finds that the study of
5 American civics encompasses what it means to be a good
6 citizen, fosters an understanding of how government works
7 and informs citizens on how they can participate and
8 influence their government.

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

22

1 (c) No student shall receive a high school diploma,
2 associate degree, baccalaureate degree or, beginning school
3 year 2018-2019, a high school equivalency certificate
4 without satisfactorily passing an examination on the
5 principles of the constitution of the United States and the
6 state of Wyoming. Subject to W.S. 21-9-101(c), every
7 student in grades nine (9) through twelve (12) shall be
8 afforded at least one (1) opportunity per school year to
9 take the examination. A student pursuing a high school
10 equivalency certificate shall be afforded the opportunity
11 to take the examination as part of the Wyoming community
12 college commission's high school equivalency certification
13 program. A student may take the examination as many times
14 as necessary to pass it.

15
16 (d) Beginning school year 2018-2019, the examination
17 shall consist of one hundred (100) questions identical to
18 the questions the United States citizenship and immigration
19 services may ask an individual during the application
20 process for United States citizenship in accordance with 8
21 U.S.C. § 1423. To pass the examination, a student shall
22 answer correctly not less than sixty percent (60%) of the
23 examination's questions.

1

2 (e) This section is subject to a student's
3 individualized education program under the federal
4 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, as amended.

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6 **Section 2.** W.S. 21-2-304(a)(iv), as amended by 2016
7 Wyoming Session Laws, Chapter 113, Section 1, is amended to
8 read:

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

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12 (a) The state board of education shall:

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14 (iv) In consultation with local school
15 districts, establish requirements for students to earn a
16 high school diploma as evidenced by course completion and
17 passage of an examination on the principles of the
18 constitution of the United States and the state of Wyoming
19 in accordance with W.S. 21-9-102, and as measured by each
20 district's assessment system prescribed by rule and
21 regulation of the state board and required under W.S.
22 21-3-110(a)(xxiv). Once every five (5) years and on a
23 staggered basis, the state board shall through the

1 department, review and approve each district's assessment
2 system designed to determine the various levels of student
3 performance as aligned with the uniform state standards and
4 the attainment of high school graduation requirements as
5 evidenced by course completion and passage of an
6 examination on the principles of the constitution of the
7 United States and the state of Wyoming in accordance with
8 W.S. 21-9-102. In addition and following review,
9 refinement and revision of student content and performance
10 standards adopted under paragraph (a)(iii) of this section
11 and reviewed under subsection (c) of this section, the
12 board shall establish a process to ensure district
13 assessment systems are aligned with the refined and revised
14 standards within three (3) full school years following
15 adoption of revised standards;

16

17 **Section 3.** This act is effective July 1, 2017.

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(END)