

Sixty-fourth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

HOUSE BILL NO. 1087

Introduced by

Representatives Nathe, Larson, Schatz, Sanford, Carlson, Hunsakor

Senators Heckaman, Flakoll, Wardner

1 A BILL ~~for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15.1-21, relating to the~~
2 ~~demonstration of proficiency in civics as a condition of high school graduation.~~ for an Act to
3 create and enact a new section to chapter 15.1-21 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating
4 to the demonstration of proficiency in civics as a condition of high school graduation.

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

6 ~~SECTION 1. A new section to chapter 15.1-21 of the North Dakota Century Code is created~~
7 ~~and enacted as follows:~~

8 ~~High school graduation requirement -- Civics test.~~

9 ~~1. For purposes of this section, "civics test" means the one hundred questions that, as of~~
10 ~~January 1, 2015, officers of the United States citizenship and immigration services use~~
11 ~~as the basis for selecting the questions posed to applicants for naturalization, in order~~
12 ~~that the applicants can demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the~~
13 ~~fundamentals of United States history and the principles and form of United States~~
14 ~~government, as required by 8 U.S.C. 1423.~~

15 ~~2. Before a student may be awarded a high school diploma, the student must correctly~~
16 ~~answer at least sixty percent of the questions on the civics test.~~

17 ~~a. This requirement applies to each student:~~

18 ~~(1) Enrolled in a public school district;~~

19 ~~(2) Enrolled in a nonpublic school;~~

20 ~~(3) Enrolled in the center for distance education;~~

21 ~~(4) Receiving home education; or~~

22 ~~(5) Pursuing a general equivalency diploma.~~

23 ~~b. This requirement does not apply to a student who is exempted in accordance~~
24 ~~with the student's individualized education program plan.~~

~~3. The superintendent of public instruction shall, upon request, provide to the person administering the civics test the correct answer or acceptable answers to each question.~~

~~4. Each student must be provided with an opportunity to take the civics test at least one time per school calendar. A student may take the test at any time after enrolling in grade seven and may repeat the test as often as necessary to demonstrate proficiency.~~

~~5. Neither the superintendent of public instruction nor a school district may impose or collect any fees or charges in connection with this section.~~

~~6. This section is applicable to any student who graduates from high school during or after the 2016-17 school year.~~

SECTION 1. A new section to chapter 15.1-21 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

High school graduation requirement - Civics test.

1. For purposes of this section, "civics test" means the one hundred questions that, as of January 1, 2015, officers of the United States citizenship and immigration services use as the basis for selecting the questions posed to applicants for naturalization, in order that the applicants can demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of United States history and the principles and form of United States government, as required by 8 U.S.C. 1423.

2. a. If a student is enrolled in the twelfth grade during the 2016-17 school year, that student must, as a condition of receiving a high school diploma, correctly answer at least sixty percent of the questions on the civics test.

b. Before any other student may be awarded a high school diploma, that student must correctly answer at least seventy percent of the questions on the civics test.

3. a. The requirement set forth in this section applies to each student who is:

(1) Enrolled in a public school district;

(2) Enrolled in a nonpublic school;

(3) Enrolled in the center for distance education;

(4) Receiving home education if the student is to be issued a high school diploma in accordance with subsection 1 of section 15.1-23-17; or

1 (5) Pursuing a general equivalency diploma.

2 b. A student may be exempted from the requirement of this section by the
3 provisions of the student's individualized education program plan.

4 4. The superintendent of public instruction shall, upon request, provide to the person
5 administering the civics test the correct answer or acceptable answers to each
6 question.

7 5. A student may take the test, in whole or in part, at any time after enrolling in grade
8 seven and may repeat the test, or any portion thereof, as often as necessary to
9 demonstrate proficiency.

10 6. Neither the superintendent of public instruction nor a school district may impose or
11 collect any fees or charges in connection with this section.

12 7. This section is applicable to any student who graduates from high school during or
13 after the 2016-17 school year.