

Sixty-fourth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1087

Introduced by

Representatives Nathe, Larson, Schatz, Sanford, Carlson, Hunskor

Senators Heckaman, Flakoll, Wardner

1 A BILL ~~for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 15.1-21 of the North Dakota~~
2 ~~Century Code, relating to the demonstration of proficiency in civics as a condition of high school~~
3 ~~graduation;~~ for an Act to amend and reenact section 15.1-21-22 of the North Dakota Century
4 Code, relating to concepts of civics.

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 1 ~~————— (4) Receiving home education if the student is to be issued a high school-~~
2 ~~diploma in accordance with subsection 1 of section 15.1-23-17; or~~
3 ~~————— (5) Pursuing a general equivalency diploma.~~
4 ~~————— b. A student may be exempted from the requirement of this section by the~~
5 ~~provisions of the student's individualized education program plan.~~
6 ~~———— 4. The superintendent of public instruction shall, upon request, provide to the person~~
7 ~~administering the civics test the correct answer or acceptable answers to each~~
8 ~~question.~~
9 ~~———— 5. A student may take the test, in whole or in part, at any time after enrolling in grade-~~
10 ~~seven and may repeat the test, or any portion thereof, as often as necessary to~~
11 ~~demonstrate proficiency.~~
12 ~~———— 6. Neither the superintendent of public instruction nor a school district may impose or~~
13 ~~collect any fees or charges in connection with this section.~~
14 ~~———— 7. This section is applicable to any student who graduates from high school during or~~
15 ~~after the 2016-17 school year.~~

16 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 15.1-21-22 of the North Dakota Century Code is
17 amended and reenacted as follows:

18 **15.1-21-22. Required reading of historical documents.**

- 19 1. Before a student is deemed to have successfully completed either United States
20 government or problems of democracy, as required by section 15.1-21-02.1, the
21 student's school district shall ensure that the student has read the Declaration of
22 Independence, the United States Constitution, and including the Bill of Rights, and
23 been exposed to the governmental and historical concepts embodied in the civics test.
24 2. For purposes of this section, "civics test" means the one hundred questions that, as of
25 January 1, 2015, officers of the United States citizenship and immigration services use
26 as the basis for selecting the questions posed to applicants for naturalization, in order
27 that the applicants can demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the
28 fundamentals of United States history and the principles and form of United States
29 government, as required by 8 U.S.C. 1423.