

## HOUSE REPUBLICAN STAFF ANALYSIS

Bill:	House File 165/Senate File 369	House Committee: <b>Passed on 1/28/25 (14-8)</b>
Committee:	Education	House Floor: <b>Passed on 4/17/25 (60-33)</b>
Floor Manager:	Rep. Henderson	Senate Floor: <b>Passed on 4/14/25 (38-7)</b>
Date:	April 17, 2025	Governor:
Staff:	Kristin Rozeboom (1-3015)	

### Civics Exam

- **Analysis reflects Henderson strike-after amendment**
- Students in grades 9-12 must pass a multiple choice assessment that consists all of the questions contained in the most recent version of the Civics test developed by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.
- Students must get 60% as a condition of graduation, but may retake the test as many times as necessary.
- The Department must submit a report to the General Assembly on or before June 30, 2029 that studies the relationship between the civics test and graduation rates.
- On or before June 30 of each year the school shall submit the results to the Department of Education.
- Allows modification for IEP students, 504 students, ELL students, and students with significant intellectual disability.

### Section by Section Analysis

#### Section 1. Section 256.9 New Subsections

The Department of Education shall develop and distribute to school districts, accredited nonpublic schools, charter schools, and innovation zone schools a test in multiple-choice format that consists of all of the questions contained in the most recent version of the civics test developed by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.

On or before January 31 immediately subsequent to each general election which is a Presidential election, update the test and distribute it to schools.

The Department of Education shall study the relationship between high school graduation rates and the number of students who attain a passing score on the Civics test and submit a report that contains the results of the study to the General Assembly on or before June 30, 2029.

#### Section 2. Section 256E.7(2)

Applies to charter schools.

#### Section 3. Section 256F.4(2)

Applies to charter schools.

#### Section 4. Section 259A.1 Assessment of Competency

Amended to say that the Dept. of Education shall make available a high school equivalency diploma that shall be issued to qualified individuals who successfully pass the Civics test and who demonstrate the other required competencies.

Section 5. Section 280.9A New Subsection

Commencing the school year beginning July 1, 2026, the school board of a public school and those in charge of an accredited nonpublic school shall administer to students in grade 9-12 the most recent version of the Civics test in written or electronic format and shall ensure that each student receives one passing score on the test as a condition of graduation. The schools shall not be required to administer the test to a student who has received a passing score on the test.

A student must answer at least 60% of the questions on the test correctly to attain a passing score.

The schools shall not impose or collect any fee in connection with the administration of the test.

The schools may do all of the following:

- Modify the test for a student with an IEP or 504 plan
- Develop and administer an alternate test to a student who has a significant intellectual disability
- Develop and administer an alternate test to a student who is an English Language learner

On or before June 30 of each year, the schools shall submit the results of the test to the Department of Education.

The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to administer the chapter.

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