

1 SB105  
2 164475-2  
3 By Senators Orr and Brewbaker  
4 RFD: Education & Youth Affairs  
5 First Read: 03-MAR-15

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8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, the core curriculum in  
9 Alabama for students in grades K-12 includes  
10 instruction in social studies.

11 This bill would require, beginning with the  
12 2016-2017 school year, students to successfully  
13 pass a civics test identical to the civics portion  
14 of the naturalization test used by the United  
15 States citizenship and immigration services to  
16 graduate from high school or obtain a high school  
17 equivalency diploma.

18  
19 A BILL  
20 TO BE ENTITLED  
21 AN ACT  
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23 Relating to K-12 education; beginning with the  
24 2016-2017 school year, to require students to successfully  
25 pass a civics test identical to the civics portion of the  
26 naturalization test used by the United States citizenship and

1 immigration services to graduate from high school or obtain a  
2 high school equivalency diploma.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

4 Section 1. (a) Beginning in the 2016-2017 school  
5 year, in order to graduate from high school or obtain a high  
6 school equivalency diploma, a student shall correctly answer  
7 at least 60 of the 100 questions listed on a civics test that  
8 is identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test  
9 used by the United States citizenship and immigration  
10 services. The school shall document on the transcript of the  
11 student that he or she has successfully completed the civics  
12 test as required by this subsection.

13 (b) The local board of education may determine the  
14 method and manner in which to administer the civics test to  
15 students. A student who does not obtain a passing score on the  
16 civics test may retake the test until he or she obtains a  
17 passing score.

18 (c) A special education student is not required to  
19 achieve a passing score on the civics test in order to  
20 graduate from high school unless he or she is learning at a  
21 level appropriate for his or her grade level in a specific  
22 academic area and unless a passing score on the civics test is  
23 specifically required in a specific academic area by the  
24 individualized education program of the student, if the  
25 student is at least 18 years of age.

26 (d) The State Board of Education shall make the  
27 civics text available to nonpublic high school students in

1 the state and may establish and charge each nonpublic high  
2 school student taking the civics test a reasonable fee to  
3 cover the costs of providing the civics test.

4 (e) The State Board of Education shall promulgate  
5 necessary rules to implement this section.

6 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the  
7 first day of the third month following its passage and  
8 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.