

1 SB161
2 164475-2
3 By Senators Orr, Allen and Brewbaker
4 RFD: Education and Youth Affairs
5 First Read: 05-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.

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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.