SB161

164475-2

By Senators Orr, Allen and Brewbaker

RFD: Education and Youth Affairs

First Read: 05-MAR-15
SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, the core curriculum in Alabama for students in grades K-12 includes instruction in social studies.

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

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Relating to K-12 education; beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, to require students to successfully pass a civics test identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test used by the United States citizenship and
immigration services to graduate from high school or obtain a
high school equivalency diploma.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

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

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

(d) The State Board of Education shall make the
civics test text available to nonpublic high school students in
the state and may establish and charge each nonpublic high
school student taking the civics test a reasonable fee to
cover the costs of providing the civics test.

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

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