

Senate Bill 213

By: Senators Harbin of the 16th, Shafer of the 48th, McKoon of the 29th, Hill of the 32nd, Williams of the 27th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

To amend Part 2 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to competencies and core curriculum, so as to require students to obtain a passing score on a civics test for purposes of being eligible to receive a high school diploma; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Part 2 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to competencies and core curriculum, is amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 20-2-142, relating to prescribed courses and the development and dissemination of instructional materials on the effects of alcohol, as follows:

"(a)(1) All elementary and secondary schools which receive in any manner funds from the state shall provide the following course offerings in the manner and at the grade level prescribed by the State Board of Education in its quality core curriculum:

(A) A course of study in the background, history, and development of the federal and state governments and a study of Georgia county and municipal governments; ~~and~~

(B) A course of study in the history of the United States and in the history of Georgia and in the essentials of the United States and Georgia Constitutions, including the study of American institutions and ideals which shall include a study of the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States and the Georgia flag in addition to other institutions and ideals; and

(C) Beginning with students entering ninth grade in the 2016-2017 school year, a civics test that is identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test used by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.

(2) No student shall be eligible to receive a diploma from a high school unless such student has successfully completed the courses in history and government and has correctly answered at least 60 of the 100 questions listed on the civics test provided for by this subsection, except as provided in paragraphs (3) and (4) of this subsection. For

students moving to Georgia and unable to take the course or courses available to fulfill these requirements in the grade level in which such course or courses are ordinarily offered, the State Board of Education may develop alternative methods, which may include but shall not be limited to an ~~on-line~~ online course of study, for such students to learn about and demonstrate an adequate understanding of federal or Georgia history and government.

(3) Disabled students who are otherwise eligible for a special education diploma pursuant to subsection (c) of Code Section 20-2-281 shall not be denied this diploma if they have not successfully completed either or both of these courses; provided, however, that their Individualized Education Programs have not specified that the disabled students must enroll in and successfully complete both of these courses.

(4) The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules and regulations governing the required course of study in the history of Georgia and in the essentials of the Georgia Constitution for students who transfer from another state after having completed the year in which such course or courses are ordinarily offered. The State Board of Education is authorized to provide for exemptions to the required course of study for such students and for students whose parent or parents serve in the armed forces of the United States."

SECTION 2.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.