

## SENATE BILL No. 132

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### DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

**Citations Affected:** IC 20-32; IC 22-4.1-18-2.5.

**Synopsis:** Civics test as graduation requirement. Requires the state board of education (state board) to provide to a public school, including a charter school, or an accredited nonpublic school a United States government course exam (exam) that contains material that is identical to the material tested on the United States Civics Tests administered by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services to each applicant for United States citizenship. Requires a public school, including a charter school, or an accredited nonpublic school to administer the exam. Provides that, beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, an individual must obtain a satisfactory score on the exam before: (1) graduating from a public high school or an accredited nonpublic high school; or (2) obtaining a high school equivalency certificate.

**Effective:** July 1, 2019.

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## Kruse

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January 3, 2019, read first time and referred to Committee on Education and Career Development.

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First Regular Session of the 121st General Assembly (2019)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2018 Regular and Special Session of the General Assembly.

## SENATE BILL No. 132

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning education.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

1 SECTION 1. IC 20-32-4-15 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE  
2 AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY  
3 1, 2019]: **Sec. 15. (a) This section applies to an individual who is a**  
4 **student in grade 8 through grade 12 in:**  
5 (1) a public school, including a charter school; or  
6 (2) an accredited nonpublic school.  
7 (b) Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, in addition to  
8 completing the graduation requirements set forth in this article, an  
9 individual must successfully complete the exam described in  
10 IC 20-32-5.1-9(a) to be eligible to graduate.  
11 (c) An individual must receive a score of not less than sixty  
12 percent (60%) on the exam described in IC 20-32-5.1-9(a) to  
13 complete the requirement. An individual may take the exam:  
14 (1) at any time beginning in grade 8; and  
15 (2) as many times as is necessary to complete the requirement.  
16 (d) The school shall certify to the department that the individual  
17 has successfully completed the testing requirement in this section



1 **before the individual may graduate.**

2 SECTION 2. IC 20-32-5.1-9, AS ADDED BY P.L.242-2017,  
 3 SECTION 41, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
 4 JULY 1, 2019]: Sec. 9. (a) The state board shall ~~develop~~ **provide to a**  
 5 **school described in IC 20-32-4-15(a)** a United States government  
 6 course ~~final~~ exam that **contains material that is identical to the**  
 7 **material tested on the one hundred (100) question United States**  
 8 **Civics Tests administered by the United States Citizenship and**  
 9 **Immigration Services to each applicant for United States**  
 10 **citizenship.**

11 (b) A school described in IC 20-32-4-15(a) ~~schools may~~ shall  
 12 administer at the completion of a United States government course. The  
 13 exam must include the structure of state and federal governments;  
 14 including the role of separation of powers; the freedoms guaranteed by  
 15 the Bill of Rights of the Constitution of the United States; and the  
 16 Federalist Papers. ~~the exam described in subsection (a) in~~  
 17 **accordance with IC 20-32-4-15.**

18 SECTION 3. IC 22-4.1-18-2.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA  
 19 CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS  
 20 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2019]: Sec. 2.5. (a) **Beginning with the**  
 21 **2020-2021 school year, in addition to completing the high school**  
 22 **equivalency test, an individual must successfully complete the exam**  
 23 **described in IC 20-32-5.1-9(a) before receiving a high school**  
 24 **equivalency certificate.**

25 (b) **An individual must receive a score of not less than sixty**  
 26 **percent (60%) on the exam described in IC 20-32-5.1-9(a) to**  
 27 **complete the requirement. An individual may take the exam as**  
 28 **many times as is necessary to complete the requirement.**

29 (c) **For an individual who is seeking a high school equivalency**  
 30 **certificate, the testing authority that administers the high school**  
 31 **equivalency test shall:**

- 32 (1) **administer the exam described in IC 20-32-5.1-9(a); and**  
 33 (2) **certify to the department that the individual has**  
 34 **successfully completed the testing requirement in this section**  
 35 **before the individual may receive the high school equivalency**  
 36 **certificate.**

