

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 56th Legislature (2017)

3 SENATE BILL 162

By: Bice

4  
5 AS INTRODUCED

6 An Act relating to schools; creating the Oklahoma  
7 Civics Education Initiative Act; requiring students  
8 to take and pass the United States Citizenship Test;  
9 specifying required test; requiring school districts  
10 and the State Board of Career and Technology  
11 Education to administer or provide for administration  
12 of the test; requiring students to take and pass  
13 test; defining successful passage; providing for  
14 retake opportunities for certain students; requiring  
15 school districts to report certain scores; providing  
16 for certain statements for students who have  
17 individualized education programs; providing for  
18 certain accommodations; requiring certain  
19 documentation; providing for assessment of students  
20 identified as English language learners; providing  
21 for codification; providing for noncodification; and  
22 providing an effective date.

23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

24 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be  
codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma Civics  
Education Initiative Act".

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.517 of Title 70, unless  
there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

1       A. Except as otherwise provided for in this section, beginning  
2 with the 2018-2019 school year, every student enrolled in a public  
3 school or seeking a diploma issued by the state upon completion of  
4 the General Educational Development (GED) test shall take and  
5 receive a passing grade on the United States Citizenship Test,  
6 administered by the United States Citizenship and Immigration  
7 Services.

8       B. The test required pursuant to this section shall be the  
9 specific test which includes one hundred civics questions, as  
10 administered by the United States Citizenship and Immigration  
11 Service and which is required of all applicants applying for United  
12 States citizenship. Each school district shall administer the test  
13 to students enrolled in the school district. The State Board of  
14 Career and Technology Education shall provide for the administration  
15 of the test to students seeking a GED diploma.

16       C. Students shall be required to take all one hundred questions  
17 on the United States Citizenship Test and successfully pass the  
18 test. In order to successfully pass the test, a student shall  
19 attain a minimum score of not less than sixty percent (60%) correct  
20 answers on the one-hundred-question test.

21       D. Students who do not successfully pass the United States  
22 Citizenship Test shall be given the opportunity to retake the test  
23 as many times as necessary for passage.

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1 E. School districts shall report the highest-achieved score on  
2 the United States Citizenship Test in order to ensure the  
3 requirements of the Oklahoma Civics Education Initiative Act are  
4 completed.

5 F. 1. Students who have individualized education programs  
6 pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)  
7 shall have an appropriate statement on the student's individualized  
8 education program requiring administration of the United States  
9 Citizenship Test with or without accommodations or an alternate  
10 test. Any accommodations normally employed for assessments shall be  
11 approved by the State Board of Education and be provided for in the  
12 individualized education program. All documentation for each  
13 student shall be on file in the school prior to administration of  
14 the test.

15 2. Students identified as English language learners shall be  
16 assessed in a valid and reliable manner with acceptable  
17 accommodations as necessary or, to the extent practicable, with an  
18 alternate assessment aligned to the United States Citizenship Test  
19 provided by the school district in the language and form most likely  
20 to yield accurate data of the student's knowledge of civics.

21 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2017.

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