
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1145 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY BOBACK, WEBSTER, ROTHMAN, R. BROWN, JAMES,
STAMBAUGH, MILLARD, SAINATO, HELM, RYAN, R. MACKENZIE,
MENTZER, HILL-EVANS, MOUL, SCHLEGEL CULVER, PICKETT, HOWARD,
HEFFLEY, FREEMAN, SHUSTERMAN, SAYLOR, ZIMMERMAN, O'MARA,
WHEELAND AND SCHWEYER, APRIL 8, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, APRIL 8, 2021

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the
5 laws relating thereto," in high schools, further providing
6 for assessment of civic knowledge.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. Section 1605.1(a) of the act of March 10, 1949
10 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is
11 amended to read:

12 Section 1605.1. Assessment of Civic Knowledge.--(a)
13 Beginning with the [2020-2021] 2021-2022 school year, each
14 school entity:

15 (1) Shall administer at least once to students during grades
16 seven through twelve a locally developed assessment of United
17 States history, government and civics that includes the nature,
18 purpose, principles and structure of United States

1 constitutional democracy, the principles, operations and
2 documents of United States government and the rights and
3 responsibilities of citizenship. Each school entity shall
4 determine the form of the assessment and the manner in which the
5 assessment shall be administered and may administer the
6 assessment at the conclusion of the course of study required
7 under section 1605(a) or at the conclusion of another related
8 course or instructional unit. A school entity may use the United
9 States Citizenship and Immigration Services Test to satisfy the
10 requirements of this paragraph. A student must receive a score
11 of at least seventy percent (70%) as a condition of high school
12 graduation. A student may take the assessment as many times as
13 necessary to achieve a score of at least seventy percent (70%).

14 (2) Shall issue a certificate of recognition, developed by
15 the department, to students who achieve a perfect score on the
16 assessment administered under paragraph (1).

17 (3) Shall develop an age-appropriate civics course that
18 shall include, but not be limited to, the Federal, State and
19 local election processes.

20 * * *

21 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.