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H.811

Introduced by Representatives Brumsted of Shelburne, Harrison of Chittenden, Sibia of Dover, Anthony of Barre City, Bancroft of Westford, Bartholomew of Hartland, Birong of Vergennes, Bock of Chester, Briglin of Thetford, Burke of Brattleboro, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Canfield of Fair Haven, Christensen of Weathersfield, Christie of Hartford, Cina of Burlington, Coffey of Guilford, Colston of Winooski, Cordes of Lincoln, Cupoli of Rutland City, Demrow of Corinth, Dickinson of St. Albans Town, Durfee of Shaftsbury, Gamache of Swanton, Gannon of Wilmington, Gardner of Richmond, Goslant of Northfield, Gregoire of Fairfield, Haas of Rochester, Hango of Berkshire, Higley of Lowell, Hooper of Randolph, Houghton of Essex, Jerome of Brandon, Killacky of South Burlington, Kimbell of Woodstock, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, LaClair of Barre Town, Lefebvre of Newark, McCoy of Poultney, McFaun of Barre Town, Nicoll of Ludlow, Notte of Rutland City, Pajala of Londonderry, Palasik of Milton, Patt of Worcester, Potter of Clarendon, Redmond of Essex, Reed of Braintree, Rosenquist of Georgia, Scheu of Middlebury, Shaw of Pittsford, Sheldon of Middlebury, Smith of New Haven, Squirrell of Underhill,

1 Terenzini of Rutland Town, Toof of St. Albans Town,  
2 Townsend of South Burlington, Troiano of Stannard, and  
3 Yantachka of Charlotte

4 Referred to Committee on

5 Date:

6 Subject: Education; secondary education; course of study; civics

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require public  
8 high school students to pass a civics test as a condition of graduation.

9 An act relating to the requirement to pass a civics test for high school  
10 graduation

11 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

12 Sec. 1. GOALS

13 In order to ensure that Vermont public school students who are awarded a  
14 high school diploma have a basic understanding of U.S. civics and history and  
15 to promote and encourage active and engaged citizenship, Vermont students  
16 shall pass, as a condition of being awarded a high school diploma, the basic  
17 civics test produced by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and  
18 administered to all applicants for U.S. citizenship.

1       Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 914 is added to read:

2       § 914. HIGH SCHOOL CIVICS TEST REQUIREMENT

3           (a) Vermont students shall, as a condition of being awarded a high school  
4       diploma, take and receive a passing grade on the U.S. citizenship civics test,  
5       produced by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and administered  
6       to all applicants for U.S. citizenship, subject to the following terms and  
7       conditions:

8           (1) students shall be tested on all questions on the civics test, with a  
9       minimum score of 60 percent required for passage; and

10          (2) students may take the civics test as many times as may be necessary  
11       for passage.

12          (b) This section applies to all students who are awarded a high school  
13       diploma who attend a State public school or career technical center, but shall  
14       not apply to students who are in special education programs.

15       Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

16          This act shall take effect on July 1, 2020 and shall apply to high school  
17       students who graduate in or after the 2022 academic year.