

HOUSE BILL 1736

By Slater

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,  
relative to civics education.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-1028(b)(1), is amended by designating the existing language as subdivision (A) and adding the following as subdivision (B):

(B)

(i) The department of education shall recommend academic standards for a year-long course in civics education for students in eighth grade to the state board for adoption. The state board shall adopt academic standards for a year-long course in civics education for students in eighth grade, which must be available for implementation beginning with the 2024-2025 school year.

(ii) The standards must:

(a) Be designed to educate students about the United States and Tennessee governments; and

(b) Include:

(1) The three (3) branches of government;

(2) The fundamental documents identified in § 49-6-1011(a) that underpin our form of government;

(3) An understanding of how laws are enacted; and

(4) Ways citizens shape and influence government and governmental actions.

(iii) LEAs and public charter schools that serve students in eighth grade shall implement the year-long course in civics education for students in eighth grade beginning with the 2025-2026 school year. The curriculum, content, and instruction selected or provided by an LEA or public charter school as part of the year-long course in civics education required for students in eighth grade must:

(a) Be designed to educate students about the United States and Tennessee governments;

(b) Include:

(1) The three (3) branches of government;

(2) The fundamental documents identified in § 49-6-1011(a) that underpin our form of government;

(3) An understanding of how laws are enacted; and

(4) Ways citizens shape and influence government and governmental actions; and

(c) Meet the requirements of subdivision (b)(2)(A).

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.