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H.637

Introduced by Representative Brennan of Colchester

Referred to Committee on

Date:

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

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

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

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

Sec. 1. GOALS

In order to ensure that Vermont public school students who are awarded a high school diploma have a basic understanding of U.S. civics and history, and to promote and encourage active and engaged citizenship, Vermont students shall pass, as a condition of being awarded a high school diploma, the basic civics test produced by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and 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. Every institution
15 that awards a high school diploma to a student to whom this requirement
16 applies shall ensure and be able to demonstrate the student has taken and
17 passed the civics test.

18 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

19 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2016 and shall apply to high school
20 students who graduate in or after the 2018 academic year.