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HOUSE BILL 1706

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State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Chandler and Santos

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring students to pass a civics test as a  
2 prerequisite to graduation from high school; and amending RCW  
3 28A.230.170.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.230.170 and 2011 c 203 s 3 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (1) The study of the Constitution of the United States and the  
8 Constitution of the state of Washington shall be a condition  
9 prerequisite to graduation from the public and private high schools  
10 of this state. The superintendent of public instruction shall provide  
11 by rule for the implementation of this (~~section~~) subsection. The  
12 superintendent of public instruction may adopt a rule permitting  
13 students who meet the criteria in RCW 28A.230.122 to meet the  
14 prerequisite through noncredit-based study.

15 (2)(a) Beginning with the 2017-18 school year, each public and  
16 private high school shall require as a prerequisite to graduation,  
17 that students take and pass the civics component of the federally  
18 administered naturalization test required of persons seeking to  
19 become naturalized United States citizens.

20 (b) The superintendent of public instruction shall develop the  
21 test, which must consist of fifty questions selected from the one

1 hundred civics questions for the naturalization test that are  
2 available from the United States citizenship and immigration services  
3 office.

4 (c) The superintendent of public instruction shall provide by  
5 rule for the implementation of this subsection. The rules shall  
6 require a student attaining a passing score to correctly answer no  
7 fewer than thirty-five questions, and shall include provisions for  
8 retaking the test if a student does not attain a passing score.

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