

SENATE FILE NO. SF0171

Civic proficiency examination-2.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Pappas, Coe and Meier and  
Representative(s) Brown, Clem, Edwards,  
Henderson and Lone

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to education; requiring passage of an  
2 examination on the principles of the constitutions of the  
3 United States and Wyoming to receive a high school diploma,  
4 associate degree or baccalaureate degree; specifying  
5 examination requirements and composition; providing  
6 legislative findings; and providing for an effective date.

7

8 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

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10 **Section 1.** W.S. 21-9-102 is amended to read:

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12 **21-9-102. Instruction in state and federal**  
13 **constitutions required; satisfactory examination a**  
14 **prerequisite to graduation; composition of examination.**

15

1       (a) The state of Wyoming finds that the study of  
2 American civics encompasses what it means to be a good  
3 citizen, fosters an understanding of how government works  
4 and informs citizens on how they can participate and  
5 influence their government.

6  
7       (b) All schools and colleges in this state that are  
8 supported in any manner by public funds shall give  
9 instruction in the essentials of the United States  
10 constitution and the constitution of the state of Wyoming,  
11 including the study of and devotion to American institution  
12 and ideals., ~~and no student shall receive a high school~~  
13 ~~diploma, associate degree or baccalaureate degree without~~  
14 ~~satisfactorily passing an examination on the principles of~~  
15 ~~the constitution of the United States and the state of~~  
16 ~~Wyoming.~~ The instruction shall be given for at least three  
17 (3) years in kindergarten through grade eight (8) and for  
18 one (1) year each in the secondary and college grades.

19  
20       (c) No student shall receive a high school diploma,  
21 associate degree or baccalaureate degree without  
22 satisfactorily passing an examination on the principles of

1 the constitutions of the United States and the state of  
2 Wyoming.

3  
4 (d) Beginning school year 2018-2019, the examination  
5 required to receive a high school diploma shall consist of  
6 one hundred (100) questions identical to the questions the  
7 United States citizenship and immigration services may ask  
8 an individual during the application process for United  
9 States citizenship in accordance with 8 U.S.C. § 1423. To  
10 pass the examination, a student shall answer correctly not  
11 less than sixty percent (60%) of the examination's  
12 questions. A student may take the examination as many times  
13 as necessary to pass it.

14  
15 (e) This section is subject to a student's  
16 individualized education program under the federal  
17 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, as amended.

18  
19 **Section 2.** W.S. 21-2-304(a)(iv), as amended by 2016  
20 Wyoming Session Laws, Chapter 113, Section 1, is amended to  
21 read:

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23 **21-2-304. Duties of the state board of education.**

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2 (a) The state board of education shall:

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4 (iv) In consultation with local school  
5 districts, establish requirements for students to earn a  
6 high school diploma as evidenced by course completion and  
7 passage of an examination on the principles of the  
8 constitutions of the United States and the state of Wyoming  
9 in accordance with W.S. 21-9-102, and as measured by each  
10 district's assessment system prescribed by rule and  
11 regulation of the state board and required under W.S.  
12 21-3-110(a)(xxiv). Once every five (5) years and on a  
13 staggered basis, the state board shall through the  
14 department, review and approve each district's assessment  
15 system designed to determine the various levels of student  
16 performance as aligned with the uniform state standards and  
17 the attainment of high school graduation requirements as  
18 evidenced by course completion and passage of an  
19 examination on the principles of the constitutions of the  
20 United States and the state of Wyoming in accordance with  
21 W.S. 21-9-102. In addition and following review, refinement  
22 and revision of student content and performance standards  
23 adopted under paragraph (a)(iii) of this section and

1 reviewed under subsection (c) of this section, the board  
2 shall establish a process to ensure district assessment  
3 systems are aligned with the refined and revised standards  
4 within three (3) full school years following adoption of  
5 revised standards;

6

7 **Section 3.** This act is effective July 1, 2017.

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9

(END)