

SENATE, No. 2732

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 5, 2015

Sponsored by:

Senator JEFF VAN DREW

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Senator ANTHONY R. BUCCO

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

Requires students in grade 12 to pass United States Citizenship and Immigration Services civics test as part of high school graduation requirements.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/10/2015)

1 AN ACT concerning high school graduation requirements and
2 supplementing P.L.1979, c.241 (C.18A:7C-1 et seq.).
3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*
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7 1. Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, the board of
8 education of a school district shall administer the United States
9 Citizenship and Immigration Services civics test to all students in
10 grade 12 as part of the high school graduation requirements. A
11 student shall successfully answer 6 out of 10 questions randomly
12 selected from the civics test by school district staff in order to meet
13 the requirement for high school graduation.

14 The board of education, in consultation with parents, teachers,
15 and administrators, shall determine how to best implement the
16 administration of the test.
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18 2. This act shall take effect immediately.
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21 STATEMENT
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23 This bill requires a board of education to administer the United
24 States Citizenship and Immigration Services civics test to all
25 students in grade 12 as part of the high school graduation
26 requirements. A student must successfully answer 6 out of 10
27 questions randomly selected from the 100-question civics test by
28 school district staff in order to graduate from high school. The
29 board of education, in consultation with parents, teachers, and
30 administrators, will determine how to best implement the
31 administration of the test.

32 Immigrants applying to become citizens must correctly answer
33 six of ten question that are chosen at random from the civics test,
34 which is given verbally. The test includes questions about American
35 government, geography, and history. Ninety percent of new
36 Americans pass it on their first try. However, a number of studies
37 have shown that many high school students do not know basic facts
38 about our Republic, such as the name of the first President of the
39 United States. The goal of this bill is to increase student knowledge
40 of basic facts related to our constitutional government. The more
41 students know, the more they will engage in government and take
42 responsibility for their future.