

**ASSEMBLY, No. 5264**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**219th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED JANUARY 12, 2021

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman GERARD SCHARFENBERGER**

**District 13 (Monmouth)**

**Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires 11th grade students to complete civics course as part of high school graduation requirements.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/13/2021)**

1 AN ACT concerning civics instruction in high school and  
2 supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
5 *of New Jersey:*

6  
7 1. Beginning in the 2021-2022 school year, each board of  
8 education shall provide a civics course for all 11th grade students  
9 enrolled in the school district. The course shall prepare students to  
10 become effective citizens, voters, and members of their  
11 communities. The course content shall include information on, but  
12 not be limited to:

13 a. the fundamental principles and processes of democracy;  
14 b. the role of the specific levels of government in New Jersey,  
15 including:

16 (1) municipal governing bodies and local boards of education;  
17 (2) county governments including county executives and boards  
18 of county commissioners; and

19 (3) State government including the Legislative, Executive, and  
20 Judicial Branches;

21 c. the meaning and classification types of the various forms of  
22 citizenship;

23 d. the role and significance of the Electoral College and how  
24 the Electoral College differs from the popular vote; and

25 e. any other relevant civics topics as the board of education  
26 deems appropriate.

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28 2. Beginning with the 2021-2022 grade 11 class, the State  
29 Board of Education shall require that the local graduation  
30 requirements adopted by a board of education include one course in  
31 civics that covers the course content set forth in section 1 of this  
32 act.

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34 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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37 STATEMENT

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39 This bill provides that beginning in the 2021-2022 school year,  
40 each board of education must provide a civics course for all 11th  
41 grade students enrolled in the school district. The course must  
42 prepare students to become effective citizens, voters, and members  
43 of their communities. Under the bill, the course content must  
44 include, at a minimum, information on:

45 a. the fundamental principles and processes of democracy;

46 b. the role of the specific levels of government in New Jersey,  
47 including:

48 (1) municipal governing bodies and local boards of education;

- 1       (2) county governments including county executives and boards  
2 of county commissioners; and  
3       (3) State government including the Legislative, Executive, and  
4 Judicial Branches;  
5       c. the meaning and classification types of the various forms of  
6 citizenship;  
7       d. the role and significance of the Electoral College and how  
8 the Electoral College differs from the popular vote; and  
9       e. any other relevant civics topics as the board of education  
10 deems appropriate.  
11       The bill also provides that beginning with the 2021-2022 grade  
12 11 class, the State Board of Education must require that the local  
13 graduation requirements adopted by a board of education include  
14 one course in civics that covers the course content set forth in the  
15 bill's provisions.