

1 **AMERICAN CIVICS EDUCATION INITIATIVE**

2 2015 GENERAL SESSION

3 STATE OF UTAH

4 **Chief Sponsor: Howard A. Stephenson**

5 House Sponsor: Steve Eliason

6
7 **LONG TITLE**

8 **General Description:**

9 This bill requires an individual to pass the basic civics test as a condition for receiving a
10 high school diploma or adult education secondary diploma.

11 **Highlighted Provisions:**

12 This bill:

- 13 ▶ defines terms;
- 14 ▶ requires a high school student to pass a basic civics test as a condition for receiving
15 a high school diploma;
- 16 ▶ requires a student enrolled in an adult education program to pass a basic civics test
17 as a condition for receiving an adult education secondary diploma;
- 18 ▶ specifies the number of correct answers an individual must provide to pass a basic
19 civics test; and
- 20 ▶ requires the State Board of Education to make rules.

21 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

22 None

23 **Other Special Clauses:**

24 This bill provides a special effective date.

25 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

26 ENACTS:

27 **53A-13-109.5**, Utah Code Annotated 1953



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Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **53A-13-109.5** is enacted to read:

53A-13-109.5. American civics education initiative.

(1) As used in this section:

(a) "Adult education program" means an organized educational program below the postsecondary level, other than a regular full-time K-12 secondary education program, provided by an LEA or nonprofit organization that provides the opportunity for an adult to further the adult's high school level education.

(b) "Basic civics test" means a test that includes all 100 questions on the civics test form used by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services:

(i) to determine that an individual applying for United States citizenship meets the basic citizenship skills specified in 8 U.S.C. Sec. 1423; and

(ii) in accordance with 8 C.F.R. Sec. 312.2.

(c) "Board" means the State Board of Education.

(d) "LEA" means:

(i) a school district;

(ii) a charter school; or

(iii) the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind.

(2) A public school student shall pass a basic civics test as a condition for receiving a high school diploma, and an individual enrolled in an adult education program shall pass a basic civics test as a condition for receiving an adult education secondary diploma.

(3) An individual who correctly answers a minimum of 60 out of the 100 questions on a basic civics test passes the test and an individual who correctly answers fewer than 60 out of 100 questions on a basic civics test does not pass the test.

(4) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the board shall make rules that:

(a) require an LEA to administer a basic civics test to a high school student enrolled in the LEA;

(b) require an adult education program provider to administer a basic civics test to an individual who intends to receive an adult education secondary diploma; and

59 (c) allow an individual to take a basic civics test as many times as needed in order to
60 pass the test.

61 Section 2. **Effective date.**

62 This bill takes effect on January 1, 2016.

Legislative Review Note
as of 12-2-14 3:43 PM

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel