

Senator Todd Weiler proposes the following substitute bill:

AMERICAN CIVICS EDUCATION INITIATIVE

2015 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Howard A. Stephenson

House Sponsor: Steve Eliason

LONG TITLE

General Description:

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

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

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

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

This bill provides a special effective date.

Utah Code Sections Affected:



26 ENACTS:

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



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

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

31 **53A-13-109.5. American civics education initiative.**

32 (1) As used in this section:

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

37 (b) "Basic civics test" means a test that includes 50 of the 100 questions on the civics
38 test form used by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services:

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

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

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

43 (d) "LEA" means:

44 (i) a school district;

45 (ii) a charter school; or

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

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

50 (3) An individual who correctly answers a minimum of 35 out of 50 questions on a
51 basic civics test passes the test and an individual who correctly answers fewer than 35 out of 50
52 questions on a basic civics test does not pass the test.

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

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

57 (b) require an adult education program provider to administer a basic civics test to an
58 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 July 1, 2015.