Representative Steve Eliason 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, or alternate assessment, 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:
ENACTS:

53A-13-109.5, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

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


(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 50 of the 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) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(b), the board shall require:

(i) a public school student who graduates on or after January 1, 2016, to pass a basic civics test as a condition for receiving a high school diploma; and

(ii) a student enrolled in an adult education program to pass a basic civics test as a condition for receiving an adult education secondary diploma.

(b) The board may require a public school student to pass an alternate assessment instead of a basic civics test if the student qualifies for an alternate assessment, as defined in board rule.

(3) An individual who correctly answers a minimum of 35 out of the 50 questions on a basic civics test passes the test and an individual who correctly answers fewer than 35 out of 50
57 questions on a basic civics test does not pass the test.
58 (4) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the
59 board shall make rules that:
60 (a) require an LEA that serves secondary students to administer a basic civics test or
61 alternate assessment to a public school student enrolled in the LEA;
62 (b) require an adult education program provider to administer a basic civics test to an
63 individual who intends to receive an adult education secondary diploma;
64 (c) allow an individual to take a basic civics test as many times as needed in order to
65 pass the test; and
66 (d) for the alternate assessment described in Subsection (2)(b), describe:
67 (i) the content of an alternate assessment;
68 (ii) how a public school student qualifies for an alternate assessment; and
69 (iii) how an LEA determines if a student passes an alternate assessment.
70 Section 2. **Effective date.**
71 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2015.