

Representative Elizabeth Weight proposes the following substitute bill:

CIVICS AND HISTORY EDUCATION TASK FORCE

2020 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Elizabeth Weight

Senate Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill addresses civics and history education in public schools.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ creates the Civics and History Education Task Force to study methods for strengthening civics and history education in public schools;
- ▶ requires the Civics and History Education Task Force to present a report, including legislative recommendations, to the Education Interim Committee; and
- ▶ requires a basic civics test to be used as a formative assessment.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

53E-4-205, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 186

63I-1-236, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapters 193 and 246



26 ENACTS:

27 36-29-107, Utah Code Annotated 1953

28

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

30 Section 1. Section **36-29-107** is enacted to read:

31 **36-29-107. Civics and History Education Task Force.**

32 (1) As used in this section:

33 (a) "State superintendent" means the state superintendent of public instruction

34 appointed under Section 53E-3-301.

35 (b) "Task Force" means the Civics and History Education Task Force created in

36 Subsection (2).

37 (2) (a) There is created the Civics and History Education Task Force consisting of the
38 following members:

39 (i) the state specialist for curriculum in Social Studies;

40 (ii) three members appointed by the state superintendent, including:

41 (A) one classroom teacher who teaches the United States History I course as described

42 in curriculum standards established by the state board;

43 (B) one high school guidance counselor; and

44 (C) one classroom teacher of the required Government and Citizenship course as

45 described in curriculum standards established by the state board;

46 (iii) two members appointed by the president of the Senate, one of which shall be a
47 member of the Senate;

48 (iv) two members appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, one of

49 which shall be a member of the House of Representatives; and

50 (v) one classroom teacher with knowledge and experience in civics and history

51 education, appointed by the chair of the task force.

52 (b) The president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives shall

53 jointly designate a member of the task force as chair of the task force.

54 (3) (a) The salary and expenses of each member of the task force who is a legislator

55 shall be paid in accordance with Section 36-2-2 and Legislative Joint Rules, Title 5, Chapter 3,

56 Legislator Compensation.

57 (b) A member of the task force who is not a legislator may not receive compensation
 58 for the member's work associated with the task force, but may receive per diem and
 59 reimbursement for travel expenses incurred as a member of the task force at the rates
 60 established by the Division of Finance under Sections [63A-3-106](#) and [63A-3-107](#).

61 (4) The Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel shall provide staff support
 62 to the task force.

63 (5) A vacancy shall be filled by appointing a replacement in the same manner as the
 64 member creating the vacancy under Subsection (2).

65 (6) The task force shall:

66 (a) review and study methods for strengthening civics and history education in public
 67 schools in the state, including:

68 (i) civics and history curriculum development;

69 (ii) the effectiveness of civics and history curriculum delivery and testing methods; and

70 (iii) best practices for meeting the goals of civics and character education, established

71 by the Legislature as described in Section [53G-10-204](#); and

72 (b) present a report to the Education Interim Committee on or before the Education
 73 Interim Committee's October 2020 meeting, on the items described in Subsection (6)(a),
 74 including any legislative recommendations.

75 Section 2. Section **53E-4-205** is amended to read:

76 **53E-4-205. American civics education initiative.**

77 (1) As used in this section[;], "basic civics test" means a test that includes 50 of the 100
 78 questions on the civics test used by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, in
 79 accordance with 8 C.F.R. Sec. 312.2, to determine that an individual applying for United States
 80 citizenship meets the basic citizenship skills specified in 8 U.S.C. Sec. 1423.

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

85 ~~[(b) "Basic civics test" means a test that includes 50 of the 100 questions on the civics~~
 86 ~~test form used by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services:]~~

87 ~~[(i) to determine that an individual applying for United States citizenship meets the~~

88 ~~basic citizenship skills specified in 8 U.S.C. Sec. 1423; and]~~

89 ~~[(ii) in accordance with 8 C.F.R. Sec. 312.2.]~~

90 (2) ~~[(a) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(b), the]~~ The state board shall make rules
91 in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, to require[:] a
92 basic civics test to be used in the United States History I course described in curriculum
93 standards established by the state board, as a formative assessment to inform and differentiate
94 instruction for each student.

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

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

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

102 ~~[(3) An individual who correctly answers a minimum of 35 out of the 50 questions on a~~
103 ~~basic civics test passes the test and an individual who correctly answers fewer than 35 out of 50~~
104 ~~questions on a basic civics test does not pass the test.]~~

105 ~~[(4) The state board shall make rules that:]~~

106 ~~[(a) require an LEA that serves secondary students to administer a basic civics test or~~
107 ~~alternate assessment to a public school student enrolled in the LEA;]~~

108 ~~[(b) require an adult education program provider to administer a basic civics test to an~~
109 ~~individual who intends to receive an adult education secondary diploma;]~~

110 ~~[(c) allow an individual to take a basic civics test as many times as needed in order to~~
111 ~~pass the test; and]~~

112 ~~[(d) for the alternate assessment described in Subsection (2)(b), describe:]~~

113 ~~[(i) the content of an alternate assessment;]~~

114 ~~[(ii) how a public school student qualifies for an alternate assessment; and]~~

115 ~~[(iii) how an LEA determines if a student passes an alternate assessment.]~~

116 Section 3. Section **63I-1-236** is amended to read:

117 **63I-1-236. Repeal dates, Title 36.**

118 (1) Title 36, Chapter 17, Legislative Process Committee, is repealed January 1, 2023.

- 119 (2) Section [36-12-20](#) is repealed June 30, 2023.
- 120 (3) Title 36, Chapter 22, Native American Legislative Liaison Committee, is repealed
121 July 1, 2022.
- 122 (4) Title 36, Chapter 28, Veterans and Military Affairs Commission, is repealed
123 January 1, 2025.
- 124 (5) Section [36-29-105](#) is repealed on December 31, 2020.
- 125 (6) Section [36-29-106](#) is repealed June 1, 2021.
- 126 (7) Section [36-29-107](#) is repealed June 1, 2021.
- 127 [~~7~~] (8) Title 36, Chapter 31, Martha Hughes Cannon Capitol Statue Oversight
128 Committee, is repealed January 1, 2021.