

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 638

98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR RIDDLE.

Pre-filed December 1, 2015, and ordered printed.

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary.

4478S.011

AN ACT

To repeal section 170.011, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections relating to civics education.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 170.011, RSMo, is repealed and two new sections
2 enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 170.011 and 170.345, to read as
3 follows:

170.011. 1. Regular courses of instruction in the Constitution of the
2 United States and of the state of Missouri and in American history and
3 institutions shall be given in all public and private schools in the state of
4 Missouri, except privately operated trade schools, and shall begin not later than
5 the seventh grade and continue in high school to an extent determined by the
6 state commissioner of education, and shall continue in college and university
7 courses to an extent determined by the state commissioner of higher education.
8 In the 1990-91 school year and each year thereafter, local school districts
9 maintaining high schools shall comply with the provisions of this section by
10 offering in grade nine, ten, eleven, or twelve a course of instruction in the
11 institutions, branches and functions of the government of the state of Missouri,
12 including local governments, and of the government of the United States, and in
13 the electoral process. A local school district maintaining such a high school shall
14 require that prior to the completion of the twelfth grade each pupil who receives
15 a high school diploma or certificate of graduation on or after January 1, 1994,
16 shall satisfactorily complete such a course of study. Such course shall be of at
17 least one semester in length and may be two semesters in length. The
18 department of elementary and secondary education may provide assistance in

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

19 developing such a course if the district requests assistance. A school district may
20 elect to waive the requirements of this subsection for any student who transfers
21 from outside the state to a Missouri high school if the student can furnish
22 documentation deemed acceptable by the school district of the student's successful
23 completion in any year from the ninth through the twelfth grade of a course of
24 instruction in the institutions, branches, and functions of state government,
25 including local governments, and of the government of the United States, and in
26 the electoral process.

27 **2. A student of a college or university, who, after having earned**
28 **a passing grade in a course of instruction prescribed in this section,**
29 **transfers to another college or university, is not required to earn a**
30 **passing grade in another such course as a condition precedent to his**
31 **or her graduation from the college or university.**

32 **3.** American history courses at the elementary and secondary levels shall
33 include in their proper time-line sequence specific referrals to the details and
34 events of the racial equality movement that have caused major changes in United
35 States and Missouri laws and attitudes.

36 [3. No pupil shall receive a certificate of graduation from any public or
37 private school other than private trade schools unless he has satisfactorily passed
38 an examination on the provisions and principles of the Constitution of the United
39 States and of the state of Missouri, and in American history and American
40 institutions. A school district may elect to waive the requirements of this
41 subsection for any student who transfers from outside the state to a Missouri
42 high school if the student can furnish documentation deemed acceptable by the
43 school district of the student's successful completion in any year from the ninth
44 through the twelfth grade of a course of instruction in the institutions, branches,
45 and functions of state government, including local governments, and of the
46 government of the United States, and in the electoral process. A student of a
47 college or university, who, after having completed a course of instruction
48 prescribed in this section and successfully passed an examination on the United
49 States Constitution, and in American history and American institutions required
50 hereby, transfers to another college or university, is not required to complete
51 another such course or pass another such examination as a condition precedent
52 to his graduation from the college or university.]

53 **4. To receive a certificate of graduation, public or private**
54 **schools other than private trade schools may require a passing score**

55 **on an examination of the provisions and principles of the Constitution**
56 **of the United States, the Constitution of the state of Missouri, or both**
57 **the Constitution of the United States and of the state of Missouri.**

58 [4.] **5.** In the 1990-91 school year and each year thereafter, each school
59 district maintaining a high school may annually nominate to the state board of
60 education a student who has demonstrated knowledge of the principles of
61 government and citizenship through academic achievement, participation in
62 extracurricular activities, and service to the community. Annually, the state
63 board of education shall select fifteen students from those nominated by the local
64 school districts and shall recognize and award them for their academic
65 achievement, participation and service.

66 [5.] **6.** The provisions of this section shall not apply to students from
67 foreign countries who are enrolled in public or private high schools in Missouri,
68 if such students are foreign exchange students sponsored by a national
69 organization recognized by the department of elementary and secondary
70 education.

170.345. 1. This section shall be known as the "Missouri Civics
2 **Education Initiative".**

3 **2. Any student entering ninth grade after July 1, 2017, who is**
4 **attending any public, charter, or private school except private trade**
5 **schools, or a student seeking to complete a high school equivalency**
6 **certificate shall, as a condition of high school graduation or its**
7 **equivalent, take and receive a passing grade on a basic civics test**
8 **similar to the civics portion of the United States Naturalization test,**
9 **produced by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services**
10 **(USCIS).**

11 **3. The test required under subsection 2 of this section shall**
12 **consist of one hundred questions similar to the one hundred questions**
13 **used by the USCIS that are administered to applicants for United**
14 **States citizenship. In order to receive a passing score on the test, a**
15 **student shall answer at least sixty percent of the questions correctly.**

16 **4. Any student may take the test as many times as necessary for**
17 **passage but shall receive a passing score prior to receiving a high**
18 **school diploma, a certificate of high school graduation, or a high school**
19 **equivalency certificate.**

20 **5. Every public school, charter school, private school except**

21 private trade schools, and the department of elementary and secondary
22 education shall certify that a student has taken and received a passing
23 grade on the test.

24 6. Each school district shall adopt a policy to permit the waiver
25 of the requirements of this section for any student with a disability if
26 recommended by the student's IEP committee. For purposes of this
27 subsection, "IEP" means individualized education program.

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Bill

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