House File 423 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 423 BY GRASSLEY

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act relating to social studies instruction requirements for
- 2 high school students.
- 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

H.F. 423

- 1 Section 1. Section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph b, Code
- 2 2013, is amended to read as follows:
- 3 b. Five units of the social studies including instruction
- 4 in voting statutes and procedures, voter registration
- 5 requirements, the use of paper ballots and voting systems
- 6 in the election process, and the method of acquiring and
- 7 casting an absentee ballot. All students shall complete a
- 8 minimum of one-half one unit of United States government and
- 9 one unit of United States history. The one-half unit of
- 10 United States government shall include the voting procedure
- 11 as described in this lettered paragraph and section 280.9A.
- 12 The government instruction shall also include a study of the
- 13 Constitution of the United States; and the Bill of Rights
- 14 contained in the Constitution; and the federal system of
- 15 government; the overlapping features and responsibilities of
- 16 the national, state, county, and local governments; and the
- 17 tenets of American citizenship, including civility, mutual
- 18 respect, political discourse, and appreciation of the common
- 19 public concerns of Americans. The government instruction
- 20 shall include an assessment of a student's knowledge of the
- 21 Constitution, and the Bill of Rights, and the principles of
- 22 American citizenship.
- 23 Sec. 2. Section 280.9A, subsection 1, Code 2013, is amended
- 24 to read as follows:
- 25 1. The board of directors of each local public school
- 26 district and the authorities in charge of each nonpublic school
- 27 shall require that all students in grades nine through twelve
- 28 complete, as a condition of graduation, instruction in American
- 29 history and the governments of Iowa and the United States,
- 30 including instruction in voting statutes and procedures, voter
- 31 registration requirements, the use of paper ballots and voting
- 32 systems in the election process, and the method of acquiring
- 33 and casting an absentee ballot.
- 34 Sec. 3. Section 280.9A, subsection 2, Code 2013, is amended
- 35 by striking the subsection.

H.F. 423

- 1 Sec. 4. Section 331.502, subsection 16, Code 2013, is 2 amended by striking the subsection.
- 3 Sec. 5. STATE MANDATE FUNDING SPECIFIED. In accordance
- 4 with section 25B.2, subsection 3, the state cost of requiring
- 5 compliance with any state mandate included in this Act shall
- 6 be paid by a school district from state school foundation aid
- 7 received by the school district under section 257.16. This
- 8 specification of the payment of the state cost shall be deemed
- 9 to meet all of the state funding-related requirements of
- 10 section 25B.2, subsection 3, and no additional state funding
- 11 shall be necessary for the full implementation of this Act
- 12 by and enforcement of this Act against all affected school
- 13 districts.
- 14 EXPLANATION
- 15 This bill increases the amount of instruction in government
- 16 required as part of the state's high school social studies
- 17 curriculum from one-half unit to one unit. The bill adds
- 18 instruction in the federal system of government; the
- 19 overlapping features and responsibilities of the national,
- 20 state, county, and local governments; and the tenets of
- 21 American citizenship to the subjects required in the
- 22 instruction in government. The bill adds the principles of
- 23 American citizenship to the required subjects for assessment as
- 24 part of the instruction in government.
- 25 The bill strikes requirements that high school students
- 26 receive instruction in voting statutes and procedures, voter
- 27 registration requirements, the use of paper ballots and voting
- 28 systems in the election process, and the method of acquiring
- 29 and casting an absentee ballot.
- 30 The bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code
- 31 section 25B.3. The bill requires that the state cost of
- 32 any state mandate included in the bill be paid by a school
- 33 district from state school foundation aid received by the
- 34 school district under Code section 257.16. The specification
- 35 is deemed to constitute state compliance with any state mandate

H.F. 423

- 1 funding-related requirements of Code section 25B.2. The
- 2 inclusion of this specification is intended to reinstate the
- 3 requirement of political subdivisions to comply with any state
- 4 mandates included in the bill.