

**House File 515 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 515  
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 341)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act requiring the state's high school social studies  
2 curriculum to include instruction on the Declaration of  
3 Independence.  
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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 in  
6 the election process, and the method of acquiring and casting  
7 an absentee ballot. All students shall complete a minimum  
8 of one-half unit of United States government and one unit of  
9 United States history. The one-half unit of United States  
10 government shall include the voting procedure as described in  
11 this lettered paragraph and section 280.9A. The government  
12 instruction shall also include a study of the Declaration of  
13 Independence, the Constitution of the United States, and the  
14 Bill of Rights contained in the Constitution, and an assessment  
15 of a student's knowledge of the Declaration of Independence,  
16 the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights.

17

EXPLANATION

18 This bill adds study of the Declaration of Independence to  
19 the subjects required as part of government instruction in the  
20 social studies curriculum for grades nine through 12 in the  
21 state's educational standards.