

House File 2263 - Introduced

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BY JACOBSEN

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to education, including modifying provisions
2 related to required social studies instruction, personal
3 financial literacy instruction, and high school equivalency
4 diplomas, and including applicability provisions.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph b, Code
2 2022, 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~~ all of the following:

11 (1) The voting procedure as described in this lettered
12 paragraph and section 280.9A. ~~The government instruction shall~~
13 ~~also include a~~

14 (2) A study of the Constitution of the United States and the
15 Bill of Rights contained in the Constitution and an assessment
16 of a student's knowledge of the Constitution and the Bill of
17 Rights.

18 (3) Beginning with the students in the 2022-2023 school
19 year graduating class, an assessment of the student's knowledge
20 of United States government and civics. The most recent
21 version of the civics test developed by the United States
22 citizenship and immigration services shall be used as the
23 assessment required by this subparagraph. The school district
24 or nonpublic school may modify the civics test for a student
25 who has an individualized education program. A student must
26 attain a passing score on the civics test as a condition of
27 graduation. A student who fails to attain a passing score on
28 the civics test may retake the civics test as many times as
29 necessary.

30 Sec. 2. Section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph k,
31 unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2022, is amended to read as
32 follows:

33 One-half unit of personal finance literacy. All students,
34 beginning with the students in the 2020-2021 school year
35 graduating class, shall complete at least one-half unit of

1 personal finance literacy as a condition of graduation. All
2 students, beginning with the students in the 2022-2023 school
3 year graduating class, must attain a passing score on an
4 assessment of the student's knowledge of personal financial
5 literacy as a condition of graduation. A student who fails
6 to attain a passing score on the assessment may retake the
7 assessment as many times as necessary.

8 Sec. 3. Section 259A.1, Code 2022, is amended to read as
9 follows:

10 **259A.1 Assessment of competency.**

11 The department of education shall cause to be made available
12 for qualified individuals a high school equivalency diploma.
13 The diploma shall be issued on the basis of demonstrated
14 competence in all of the following core areas: reading,
15 language arts, literacy, mathematics, personal financial
16 literacy, science, and social studies.

17 Sec. 4. Section 259A.5, subsection 2, Code 2022, is amended
18 to read as follows:

19 2. The state board of education shall adopt rules under
20 chapter 17A to carry out [this chapter](#). Any rules adopted
21 relating to demonstrations of competence for purposes of this
22 chapter shall require such demonstrations to be equivalent
23 to or of greater rigor than those required for high school
24 graduation, and such demonstrations shall include but are
25 not limited to a test battery, credit-based measures, and
26 attainment of other academic credentials. The rules shall
27 also require the demonstrations to include the applicant
28 attaining a passing score on the most recent version of the
29 civics test developed by the United States citizenship and
30 immigration services and a passing score on an assessment of
31 the applicant's knowledge of personal financial literacy.

32 Sec. 5. APPLICABILITY. The following apply to individuals
33 applying for a high school equivalency diploma on or after the
34 effective date of this Act:

35 1. The section of this Act amending section 259A.1.

1 2. The section of this Act amending section 259A.5,
2 subsection 2.

3 EXPLANATION

4 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
5 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

6 This bill relates to education, including modifying
7 provisions related to required social studies instruction,
8 personal financial literacy instruction, and high school
9 equivalency diplomas.

10 The bill requires that the United States government
11 instruction provided in school districts and nonpublic schools
12 in grades 9 through 12, beginning with the students in the
13 2022-2023 graduating class, include an assessment of the
14 student's knowledge of United States government and civics.
15 The bill provides that the most recent version of the civics
16 test developed by the United States citizenship and immigration
17 services shall be used for this assessment. The bill requires
18 a student to attain a passing score on the civics test as a
19 condition of graduation and allows a student to retake the
20 civics test as many times as necessary.

21 The bill provides that the personal financial literacy
22 instruction provided in school districts and nonpublic schools
23 in grades 9 through 12, beginning with the students in the
24 2022-2023 graduating class, shall require students to attain a
25 passing score on an assessment of the student's knowledge of
26 personal financial literacy as a condition of graduation. The
27 bill authorizes a student who fails to attain a passing score
28 on the assessment to retake the assessment as many times as
29 necessary.

30 Current law requires the department of education to make
31 available to certain specified individuals a high school
32 equivalency diploma, which shall be issued on the basis of
33 demonstrated competency in reading, language arts, literacy,
34 mathematics, science, and social studies. The bill adds
35 personal financial literacy to this list of areas in which

1 competency must be demonstrated. The bill also requires that
2 the rules adopted by the state board of education to carry out
3 Code chapter 259A (high school equivalency diplomas) shall
4 require the applicant to attain a passing score on the most
5 recent version of the civics test developed by the United
6 States citizenship and immigration services and a passing score
7 on an assessment of the applicant's knowledge of personal
8 financial literacy. The bill provides that these provisions
9 apply to individuals applying for a high school equivalency
10 diploma on or after the effective date of the bill.