

House File 236 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 236
BY INGELS and MOORE

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act relating to social studies instruction, including
- 2 instruction in United States government, provided to students
- 3 enrolled in grades nine through twelve.
- 4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. Section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph b, Code
2 2025, is amended to read as follows:

3 b. (1) Five units of the social studies including
4 instruction 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 of
8 ~~one-half~~ one unit of United States government and one unit of
9 United States history.

10 (2) The ~~one-half~~ one unit of United States government shall
11 include ~~the~~ all of the following:

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

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

18 (c) Instruction related to civics, including the roles and
19 responsibilities of citizens in a society and in state and local
20 governments.

21 Sec. 2. Section 256E.7, subsection 2, paragraph g, Code 2025,
22 is amended by adding the following new subparagraph:

23 NEW SUBPARAGRAPH. (02) The educational standards established
24 in section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph "b", related to United
25 States government instruction.

26 Sec. 3. Section 256F.4, subsection 2, Code 2025, is amended
27 by adding the following new paragraph:

28 NEW PARAGRAPH. 0q. Be subject to and comply with the
29 requirements of section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph "b",
30 relating to United States government instruction in the same
31 manner as a school district.

32 EXPLANATION

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

35 This bill relates to social studies instruction, including

1 instruction in United States government, provided to students
2 enrolled in grades 9 through 12.

3 The bill requires students enrolled in grades 9 through
4 12 in school districts, accredited nonpublic schools, charter
5 schools, and innovation zone schools to complete a minimum of
6 one unit of United States government instruction as part of the
7 social studies curriculum. The bill provides that the United
8 States government instruction shall include instruction related
9 to civics. Under current law, students enrolled in grades 9
10 through 12 in school districts and accredited nonpublic schools
11 are required to complete a minimum of one-half unit of United
12 States government instruction.

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