

Senate File 2121 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 2121

BY EVANS

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to social studies instruction provided to
2 students enrolled in grades seven through twelve, and
3 including applicability provisions.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 256E.7, subsection 2, paragraph h, Code
2 2026, is amended by adding the following new subparagraph:

3 NEW SUBPARAGRAPH. (02) The educational standards of section
4 256.11 relating to the social studies curriculum for grades seven
5 through twelve.

6 Sec. 2. Section 256F.4, subsection 2, Code 2026, is amended
7 by adding the following new paragraph:

8 NEW PARAGRAPH. Ou. Be subject to and comply with the
9 requirements of section 256.11 relating to the social studies
10 curriculum for grades seven through twelve in the same manner as
11 a school district.

12 Sec. 3. Section 256.11, subsection 4, paragraph a,
13 subparagraph (2), Code 2026, is amended to read as follows:

14 (2) Social studies, including instruction related to civics
15 and United States government. The instruction related to civics
16 and United States government shall be at least one-half semester,
17 or the trimester or quarter equivalent, during grade seven and
18 grade eight.

19 Sec. 4. Section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph b, Code 2026,
20 is amended to read as follows:

21 b. (1) Five units of the social studies including
22 instruction in voting statutes and procedures, voter registration
23 requirements, the use of paper ballots and voting systems in
24 the election process, and the method of acquiring and casting
25 an absentee ballot. All students shall complete a minimum of
26 ~~one-half~~ one unit of civics and United States government and one
27 unit of United States history.

28 (2) The ~~one-half~~ one unit of civics and United States
29 government shall include the all of the following:

30 (a) The voting procedure as described in this lettered
31 paragraph and section 280.9A. ~~The government instruction shall~~
32 ~~also include a~~

33 (b) A study of the Constitution of the United States and the
34 Bill of Rights contained in the Constitution and an assessment of
35 a student's knowledge of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

1 Sec. 5. APPLICABILITY. This Act applies to school years
2 beginning on or after July 1, 2028.

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 social studies instruction provided to
7 students enrolled in grades 7 through 12.

8 Current law requires that the social studies instruction
9 provided to students enrolled in school districts and accredited
10 nonpublic schools in grades seven and eight include instruction
11 related to civics. The bill requires that the social studies
12 instruction provided to students enrolled in school districts,
13 accredited nonpublic schools, charter schools, and innovation
14 zone schools in grades seven and eight also include instruction
15 related to United States government. The instruction related to
16 civics and United States government must be at least one-half
17 semester, or the trimester or quarter equivalent.

18 Current law requires school districts and accredited nonpublic
19 schools to offer and teach one-half unit of United States
20 government instruction as part of the required five units of
21 social studies instruction in grades 9 through 12. The bill
22 requires that the United States government instruction provided
23 to students enrolled in school districts, accredited nonpublic
24 schools, charter schools, and innovation zone schools in grades
25 9 through 12 also include instruction related to civics, and
26 increases the offer and teach requirement from one-half unit to
27 one unit.

28 The bill applies to school years beginning on or after July 1,
29 2028.