

House File 2244 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2244
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 594)

(COMPANION TO SF 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:

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
4 section 256.11 relating to the social studies curriculum for
5 grades seven 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
11 as 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
16 civics and United States government shall be at least one-half
17 semester, or the trimester or quarter equivalent, during grade
18 seven and grade eight.

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

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

1 Rights.

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

4 EXPLANATION

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

7 This bill relates to social studies instruction provided to
8 students enrolled in grades 7 through 12.

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

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

30 The bill applies to school years beginning on or after July
31 1, 2028.