

House File 2361 - Reprinted

HOUSE FILE 2361
BY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER
EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 543)

(As Amended and Passed by the House March 12, 2026)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to general education requirements, core
2 curricula, other functions of regents institutions, and
3 including applicability provisions.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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DIVISION I
SHORT TITLE

Section 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Increasing Civic Proficiency in Higher Education Act".

DIVISION II
REGENTS INSTITUTIONS — GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS AND
CORE CURRICULA — COURSES ON AMERICAN HISTORY AND AMERICAN
GOVERNMENT

Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 262.100 General education requirements and core curricula — courses on American history and American government.

1. The state board of regents shall require each institution of higher education governed by the board to establish as a requirement for the completion of any general education requirements or core curricula that an undergraduate student complete an introductory survey course in American history and an introductory survey course in American government. An institution shall assign a value of at least three semester hours of credit to each course. A course required by this section shall be a comprehensive survey of all American history and American government.

2. A course required by this section shall fulfill the general education or core curriculum requirement for social sciences or humanities, as designated by the institution, that a student is required to complete as a condition of graduation.

3. An institution shall provide equivalent credit toward the courses required by this section to a student transferring to the institution for previous coursework completed by the student that is substantially similar to a required course.

4. This section does not apply to a student completing a degree program designated by an institution as a degree program of three years or less in duration.

5. Annually, the center for intellectual freedom at the state university of Iowa, the center for cyclone civics at the

1 Iowa state university of science and technology, and the center
2 for civic education at the university of northern Iowa shall
3 designate courses at their respective institutions that satisfy
4 the requirements of this section.

5 Sec. 3. Section 263C.3, subsection 5, Code 2026, is amended
6 by striking the subsection.

7 Sec. 4. REVIEW OF GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS AND CORE
8 CURRICULA. By the semester beginning fall 2028, the board of
9 regents shall conduct a review of all undergraduate general
10 education requirements and core curricula at institutions of
11 higher education governed by the board.

12 Sec. 5. APPLICABILITY. The section of this Act enacting
13 section 262.100 applies to undergraduate students beginning
14 enrollment at institutions of higher education governed by the
15 board of regents in academic years beginning on or after July
16 1, 2028.

17 DIVISION III

18 LECTURE AND DEBATE SERIES

19 Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. **262.105 Lecture and debate series.**

20 By December 31, 2026, the center for intellectual freedom at
21 the state university of Iowa, the center for cyclone civics at
22 the Iowa state university of science and technology, and the
23 center for civic education at the university of northern Iowa
24 shall each establish an ongoing lecture and debate series. The
25 series must promote civil dialogue and debate on the issues
26 most important to the American republic.

27 DIVISION IV

28 CENTERS — ANNUAL REPORTS

29 Sec. 7. NEW SECTION. **266.8 Annual report — center for**
30 **cyclone civics.**

31 The director of the center for cyclone civics at the Iowa
32 state university of science and technology shall submit an
33 annual report to the governor, the general assembly, and the
34 state board of regents by December 31. The report must provide
35 a full account of the center's achievements and must identify

1 any opportunities, challenges, and obstacles in the development
2 of the center.

3 Sec. 8. NEW SECTION. 268.6 Annual report — center for
4 civic education.

5 The director of the center for civic education at the
6 university of northern Iowa shall submit an annual report
7 to the governor, the general assembly, and the state board
8 of regents by December 31. The report must provide a full
9 account of the center's achievements and must identify any
10 opportunities, challenges, and obstacles in the development of
11 the center.