

HB 584 -- MISSOURI CIVICS EDUCATION INITIATIVE

SPONSOR: LaFaver

This bill repeals the provisions requiring every high school student in any public or private school except private trade schools to satisfactorily pass an examination on the provisions and principles of the United States Constitution and the Missouri Constitution and in American history and American institutions in order to receive a certificate of graduation. The bill establishes the Missouri Civics Education Initiative that requires, beginning January 1, 2016, every high school student attending any public, charter, or private school except private trade schools or a student seeking to complete a general educational development (GED) equivalency to, as a condition of high school graduation or its equivalent, take and receive a passing grade on a basic civics test similar to the United States Citizenship Civics Test, produced by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

The test must use the same 100 questions used by the USCIS and administered to all applicants for United States citizenship. In order to receive a passing score on the test, the student must answer at least 60 of the questions correctly. Any student may take the test as many times as necessary for passage, but must receive a passing score prior to receiving a certificate of high school graduation or a GED equivalency. Every public, charter, or private school except private trade schools and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education must certify a student has taken and received a passing grade on the test in a way it deems adequate to ensure it is in compliance with these requirements.