

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

HOUSE BILLS NOS. 1646, 2132 & 1621

98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Reported from the Committee on Education, April 21, 2016, with recommendation that the Senate Committee Substitute do pass.

4816S.04C

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary.

AN ACT

To repeal section 170.011, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof three new sections relating to civics education.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 170.011, RSMo, is repealed and three new sections
2 enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 170.011, 170.345, and 170.350,
3 to read as follows:

170.011. 1. Regular courses of instruction in the Constitution of the
2 United States and of the state of Missouri and in American history and
3 institutions shall be given in all public and private schools in the state of
4 Missouri, except privately operated trade schools, and shall begin not later than
5 the seventh grade and continue in high school to an extent determined by the
6 state commissioner of education, and shall continue in college and university
7 courses to an extent determined by the state commissioner of higher education.
8 In the 1990-91 school year and each year thereafter, local school districts
9 maintaining high schools shall comply with the provisions of this section by
10 offering in grade nine, ten, eleven, or twelve a course of instruction in the
11 institutions, branches and functions of the government of the state of Missouri,
12 including local governments, and of the government of the United States, and in
13 the electoral process. A local school district maintaining such a high school shall
14 require that prior to the completion of the twelfth grade each pupil who receives
15 a high school diploma or certificate of graduation on or after January 1, 1994,
16 shall satisfactorily complete such a course of study. Such course shall be of at
17 least one semester in length and may be two semesters in length. The

18 department of elementary and secondary education may provide assistance in
19 developing such a course if the district requests assistance. A school district may
20 elect to waive the requirements of this subsection for any student who transfers
21 from outside the state to a Missouri high school if the student can furnish
22 documentation deemed acceptable by the school district of the student's successful
23 completion in any year from the ninth through the twelfth grade of a course of
24 instruction in the institutions, branches, and functions of state government,
25 including local governments, and of the government of the United States, and in
26 the electoral process.

27 2. American history courses at the elementary and secondary levels shall
28 include in their proper time-line sequence specific referrals to the details and
29 events of the racial equality movement that have caused major changes in United
30 States and Missouri laws and attitudes.

31 3. No pupil shall receive a certificate of graduation from any public or
32 private school other than private trade schools unless he **or she** has satisfactorily
33 passed an examination on the provisions and principles of the Constitution of the
34 United States and of the state of Missouri, and in American history [and],
35 American institutions, **and American civics**. A school district may elect to
36 waive the requirements of this subsection for any student who transfers from
37 outside the state to a Missouri high school if the student can furnish
38 documentation deemed acceptable by the school district of the student's successful
39 completion in any year from the ninth through the twelfth grade of a course of
40 instruction in the institutions, branches, and functions of state government,
41 including local governments, and of the government of the United States, and in
42 the electoral process. A student of a college or university, who, after having
43 completed a course of instruction prescribed in this section and successfully
44 passed an examination on the United States Constitution, and in American
45 history and American institutions required hereby, transfers to another college
46 or university, is not required to complete another such course or pass another
47 such examination as a condition precedent to his graduation from the college or
48 university.

49 4. In the 1990-91 school year and each year thereafter, each school district
50 maintaining a high school may annually nominate to the state board of education
51 a student who has demonstrated knowledge of the principles of government and
52 citizenship through academic achievement, participation in extracurricular
53 activities, and service to the community. Annually, the state board of education

54 shall select fifteen students from those nominated by the local school districts and
55 shall recognize and award them for their academic achievement, participation and
56 service.

57 5. The provisions of this section shall not apply to students from foreign
58 countries who are enrolled in public or private high schools in Missouri, if such
59 students are foreign exchange students sponsored by a national organization
60 recognized by the department of elementary and secondary education.

**170.345. 1. This section shall be known as the "Missouri Civics
2 Education Initiative".**

3 **2. Any student entering the ninth grade after July 1, 2017, who**
4 **is attending any public, charter, or private school, except private trade**
5 **schools, as a condition of high school graduation shall pass an**
6 **examination on the provisions and principles of American civics.**

7 **3. The examination shall consist of one hundred questions**
8 **similar to the one hundred questions used by the USCIS that are**
9 **administered to applicants for U.S. citizenship.**

10 **4. The examination required under this section may be included**
11 **in any other examination that is administered on the provisions and**
12 **principles of the Constitution of the United States and of the state of**
13 **Missouri, and in American history and American institutions, as**
14 **required in subsection 3 of section 170.011.**

15 **5. School districts may use any online test to comply with the**
16 **provisions of this section.**

17 **6. Each school district shall adopt a policy to permit the waiver**
18 **of the requirements of this section for any student with a disability if**
19 **recommended by the student's IEP committee. For purposes of this**
20 **subsection, "IEP" means individualized education program.**

170.350. A school district may develop a policy that allows
2 **student participation in the Constitution Project of the Missouri**
3 **Supreme Court to be recognized by:**

4 **(1) The granting of credit for some portion of, or in collaboration**
5 **with:**

6 **(a) Inclusion in the student's record of good citizenship as**
7 **required by the A+ tuition reimbursement program under section**
8 **160.545; or**

9 **(b) The Missouri and United States Constitution course required**
10 **under section 170.011; or**

- 11 **(c) Any relevant course or instructional unit in American**
12 **government or a similar subject; or**
- 13 **(2) District or school-level awards including, but not limited to,**
14 **certificates or assemblies.**

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