

HCS HBs 1646, 2132 & 1621 -- CIVICS EDUCATION (Swan)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Elementary and Secondary Education

The bill adds American Civics to the current existing prohibition on students receiving a certificate of graduation without having satisfactorily passed an examination on the provisions and principles of the United States and Missouri constitutions, American history, and American institutions.

This bill creates the Missouri Civics Education Initiative. Any student entering ninth grade after July 1, 2017, who is attending a public, charter, or private school, except for private trade schools, must, as a condition of high school graduation take and pass an American civics test similar to the civics portion of the United States Naturalization test, produced by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

The bill allows the school district to administer the test on American civics in conjunction with testing on the provisions and principles of the United States and Missouri constitutions, American history, and American institutions. The school district may use an on-line test to comply with these provisions.

Each district must adopt a policy permitting a student with a disability to receive a waiver from this requirement, if recommended by the student's IEP committee.

This bill is similar to HB 578 (2015) and the same as HB 2132 and 1621 (2016).