

1 State of Arkansas  
2 91st General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2017  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1539

5 By: Representatives Cozart, Deffenbaugh, Eubanks, Lowery, Davis, Della Rosa, G. Hodges, Beck,  
6 Sullivan, Speaks, Gates, Sturch, Cavenaugh, Warren, Dotson, Lundstrum  
7 By: Senators Rapert, J. English, J. Hendren, B. Johnson, Hester, Bledsoe, Caldwell, Flipppo, Rice, D.  
8 Sanders, G. Stubblefield, A. Clark, E. Williams, Collins-Smith, J. Cooper  
9

## For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE PASSAGE OF THE CIVICS PORTION  
11 OF THE NATURALIZATION TEST USED BY UNITED STATES  
12 CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES BEFORE A STUDENT  
13 MAY RECEIVE A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR A HIGH SCHOOL  
14 EQUIVALENCY DIPLOMA FROM A STATE ENTITY; AND FOR  
15 OTHER PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

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19 TO REQUIRE THE PASSAGE OF THE CIVICS  
20 PORTION OF THE NATURALIZATION TEST USED  
21 BY UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND  
22 IMMIGRATION SERVICES BEFORE A STUDENT MAY  
23 RECEIVE A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR HIGH  
24 SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY DIPLOMA.  
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28 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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30 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 16, Subchapter 1, is amended  
31 to add an additional section to read as follows:

32 6-16-149. United States citizenship civics test.

33 (a)(1) Beginning in the 2018-2019 school year, in order to receive a  
34 high school diploma from a public school or a high school equivalency diploma  
35 from a state entity, a student shall:

36 (A) Take a test that is identical to the civics portion of



1 the naturalization test used by United States Citizenship and Immigration  
 2 Services; and

3 (B) Correctly answer at least sixty (60) of the one  
 4 hundred (100) test questions.

5 (2) A student may retake the test as many times as necessary to  
 6 achieve a passing score.

7 (b) The State Board of Education shall determine the method and manner  
 8 by which to administer a test that is identical to the civics portion of the  
 9 naturalization test used by United States Citizenship and Immigration  
 10 Services.

11 (c) The requirement under subsection (a) of this section shall not  
 12 apply to a student who is exempted in accordance with the student's  
 13 individualized education program.

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