

State of Arkansas

As Engrossed: S3/2/17

91st General Assembly

A Bill

Regular Session, 2017

HOUSE BILL 1539

By: Representatives Cozart, Deffenbaugh, Eubanks, Lowery, Davis, Della Rosa, G. Hodges, Beck,
Sullivan, Speaks, Gates, Sturch, Cavanaugh, Warren, Dotson, Lundstrum

By: Senators Rapert, J. English, J. Hendren, B. Johnson, Hester, Bledsoe, Caldwell, Flipppo, Rice, D.
Sanders, G. Stubblefield, A. Clark, E. Williams, Collins-Smith, J. Cooper

For An Act To Be Entitled

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

Subtitle

TO REQUIRE THE PASSAGE OF THE CIVICS
PORTION OF THE NATURALIZATION TEST USED
BY UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND
IMMIGRATION SERVICES BEFORE A STUDENT MAY
RECEIVE A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR HIGH
SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY DIPLOMA.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 16, Subchapter 1, is amended
to add an additional section to read as follows:

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

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

(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:

13 (1) Is exempted in accordance with the student's individualized
14 education program;

15 (2) Attends school in the Corrections School System under § 12-
16 29-301 et seq.; or

17 (3) Is over eighteen (18) years of age and seeking a high school
18 equivalency diploma.

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20 /s/Cozart
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