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KENTUCKY GENERAL ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT FORM
2024 REGULAR SESSION

Amend printed copy of **HB 535/GA**

On page 1, line 3 through page 3, line 23, delete all text in its entirety and insert in lieu thereof the following:

"➔Section 1. KRS 158.141 is amended to read as follows:

(1) Beginning with the entering ninth grade class of the 2025-2026 school year, and each year thereafter, graduation requirements for each student in every public high school in Kentucky graduating with a regular diploma shall include successful completion of:

(a) ~~{on July 1, 2018, to graduate from a Kentucky public high school with a regular diploma, a student shall pass }~~A civics test composed of one hundred (100) questions drawn from those that are set forth within the civics test administered by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services to persons seeking to become naturalized citizens; and

(b) A one-half (1/2) credit course in civic literacy that includes instruction in the areas required in subsection (5) of this section.

(2) (a) A local board of education shall prepare or approve a test composed of the questions described in subsection (1)(a) of this section and shall disseminate the test to all public high schools of the district. The test shall be administered by each~~the~~ public high school~~schools~~ in the~~each~~ district.

(b) A public high school shall provide each student with the opportunity to take the test

Amendment No. SFA

Rep. Sen. Adrienne Southworth

Committee Amendment _____

Signed: _____

Floor Amendment _____

LRC Drafter: _____

Adopted: _____

Date: _____

Rejected: _____

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as many times as necessary for the student to pass the test without the use of instructional aids during testing, including but not limited to textbooks and internet browser searching. A student shall not receive a regular high school diploma until the student successfully completes the test as specified in paragraph (c) of this subsection.

(c) A student shall be considered to have successfully completed the test if at least seventy percent (70%) of the questions are answered correctly. A student who has passed a similar test within the previous five (5) years may provide the board with evidence of successful completion and shall not be required to take the test under this section;

(d) By September 1, 2026, and each year thereafter, each school district shall submit annual testing data to the Kentucky Department of Education. The department shall compile the data and by November 1 of each year submit an annual report to the Legislative Research Commission for referral to the Interim Joint Committee on Education. The report shall include:

1. The first-time successful completion rate of the civics test; and

2. The average number of times a student takes the civics test for successful completion.

(e) Provisions of this section shall be subject to the requirements and accommodations of a student's individualized education program as defined in KRS 158.281 or a Section 504 Plan as defined in KRS 156.027.

~~(4)(3)~~ Students pursuing an early graduation program as established in KRS 158.142 shall complete the requirement prior to the student's graduation.

(5) A civic literacy course shall include an equal amount of instruction in each of the four (4) following areas:

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- (a) American's founding history, the Constitution of the United States and related key texts, and federalism;
- (b) Principles and institutions of the United States government and roles and responsibilities of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches;
- (c) The Constitution of Kentucky, roles and responsibilities of the state legislative, executive, and judicial branches, and local government roles and responsibilities; and
- (d) Responsibilities of citizenship, elections, voting, jury service, civil liberties, and the role and structure of parties without commentary on specific platform points or stereotypes of parties[public high school shall provide each student with the opportunity to take the test as many times as necessary for the student to pass the test. A student shall not receive a regular high school diploma until the student passes the test].
- (6) The Kentucky Board of Education shall promulgate administrative regulations in accordance with KRS 156.160 to establish academic standards for civic literacy]
- ~~(4) A student passes the test if at least sixty percent (60%) of the questions are answered correctly.~~
- ~~(5) A student who has passed a similar test within the previous five (5) years shall not be required to take the test under this section.~~
- ~~(6) Provisions of this section shall be subject to the requirements and accommodations of a student's individualized education program as defined in KRS 158.281 or a Section 504 Plan as defined in KRS 156.027]."~~