

SENATE BILL NO. 322—SENATOR DENIS

MARCH 20, 2017

Referred to Committee on Education

SUMMARY—Requires passage of an examination in civics as a condition of receiving credit for a course in American government. (BDR 34-993)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact. Effect on the State: Yes.

~

EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to education; requiring each pupil, with certain exceptions, to take and pass an examination in civics as a condition of receiving credit for a course in American government and graduation from high school; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

1 Under existing law, a pupil is generally not entitled to graduate from a public
2 high school without passing a course in American government. (NRS 389.054,
3 389.077) As a condition of receiving credit for such a course, **section 1** of this bill
4 requires, with certain exceptions, that every pupil in a public high school take an
5 examination identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test adopted by the
6 United States Citizenship and Immigration Services of the Department of
7 Homeland Security and answer correctly not less than 60 of the 100 questions on
8 the examination.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 **Section 1.** NRS 389.077 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2 389.077 1. Except as otherwise provided in ~~subsections 2~~
3 ~~and 3,~~ *this section*, no pupil in any public high school, the Caliente
4 Youth Center, the Nevada Youth Training Center or any other state
5 facility for the detention of children that is operated pursuant to title
6 5 of NRS may receive a certificate or diploma of graduation without



1 having passed a course in American government and American
2 history as required by NRS 389.054 and 389.057.

3 2. *Except as otherwise provided in this section, a pupil in any*
4 *public high school must not be awarded credit for a course in*
5 *American government unless he or she has taken an examination*
6 *identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test adopted by*
7 *the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services of the*
8 *Department of Homeland Security and has answered correctly not*
9 *less than 60 of the 100 questions on the examination. A pupil must*
10 *be allowed to take the examination as often as necessary to obtain*
11 *the required score. Passage of the examination must be noted on*
12 *the transcript of the pupil. In accordance with his or her*
13 *individualized education program, a pupil with a disability may*
14 *receive a waiver of the requirements of this subsection. As used in*
15 *this subsection, "public high school" includes, without limitation,*
16 *any charter school that operates as a high school.*

17 3. A pupil who is enrolled in a university school for profoundly
18 gifted pupils who meets the requirements of NRS 388C.120 is
19 exempt from the provisions of ~~subsection 1.~~

20 ~~3.~~ *subsections 1 and 2.*

21 4. A pupil who transfers during grade 12 to a school in this
22 State from a school outside this State because of the military transfer
23 of the parent or legal guardian of the pupil may receive a waiver
24 from the requirements of ~~subsection 1~~ *subsections 1 and 2* if, in
25 accordance with the provisions of NRS 388F.010, the pupil:

26 (a) Successfully completed a comparable course in the school in
27 which the pupil was previously enrolled; or

28 (b) Successfully completes an alternative means prescribed by
29 the school district for acquiring the required course work.

30 **Sec. 2.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2017.

