

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SESSION ADDRESS  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182  
(907) 465-4925



INTERIM ADDRESS  
305 Center Ave, Ste 1  
Kodiak, AK 99615  
(907) 486-4925

Senator Gary Stevens

## SENATE BILL 23

*Civics Education in Alaska Schools*

### *SECTIONAL ANALYSIS (Version G)*

Sec. 1: AS 14.03.076, adds a new section directing:

- a. The State Board of Education & Early Development (SBOE) to develop, using resources publicly available, curriculum, an assessment, and a project-based assessment on the subject areas of comparative government and civics;
- b. The curriculum developed by SBOE must include instruction on a variety of fundamental U.S. principles of government, such as study of the founding history of the U.S., the U.S. and AK Constitutions, the responsibilities of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches; the rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship, and comparative systems of government used globally and by Alaska Natives.
- c. In order to receive a high school diploma, a student must either:
  - i. complete a semester course covering topics described in (b) above;
  - ii. pass a written test described in (a) above;
  - iii. present evidence of having passed a similar test as that described in (a) above within the previous 5 years;
  - iv. achieve a passing score on a project-based test described under (a) above;
  - v. present evidence of having passed a project-based test similar to that described in (a) above while in high school; or
  - vi. is exempted as a student with a disability who receives a waiver.
- d. Provides exemptions for students transferring into a school district from within the state as a junior or senior, or if from another state and has completed a state history course while in that state.
- e. Requires schools to document on student transcripts when a student has passed the assessment under (a), with the option for the student to retake the assessment repeatedly.

SENATE BILL 23 - Civics  
Sectional Analysis – Version G  
(continued)

- f. DEED is directed to adopt regulations recognizing students who achieve an excellent level of proficiency in civics knowledge and skill by affixing a seal of civic readiness on the student's diploma or transcript.
- g. A student may satisfy the civics studies graduation requirement by completing any of the options described above, that being completing a semester-based course, passing a written assessment, or a completing a project-based assessment.
- h. Specifies a passing score is a minimum satisfactory score of 70%.

Sec. 2: Transition language, making the graduation requirement effective for students entering grade 9 on or after July 1, 2027

Sec. 3: Establishes an effective date of July 1, 2027.