

**CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 23(FIN)**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 3/4/26

Referred: Today's Calendar

Sponsor(s): SENATORS STEVENS, Gray-Jackson, Tobin, Kaufman, Tilton, Claman, Stedman, Rauscher, Giessel, Cronk, Kawasaki, Wielechowski, Yundt

REPRESENTATIVE Eischeid

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 "An Act relating to civics education, civics assessments, and secondary school  
2 graduation requirements; and providing for an effective date."

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 \* **Section 1.** AS 14.03 is amended by adding a new section to read:

5 **Sec. 14.03.076. Comparative government and civics curriculum and**  
6 **assessments requirement.** (a) The board shall develop, using resources publicly  
7 available at no cost, and periodically review a statewide comparative government and  
8 civics education curriculum, civics assessment, and civics project-based assessment. A  
9 school district may use the curriculum developed by the board to educate students in  
10 comparative government and civics.

11 (b) The curriculum developed under (a) of this section must include  
12 instruction on

13 (1) the founding history of the United States, including foundational  
14 documents and the principles of government of the United States;

1 (2) federalism, including the role and operations of local, state, and  
2 national governments;

3 (3) the institutions of the United States government, including the  
4 responsibilities of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches;

5 (4) the rights and responsibilities of United States citizenship;

6 (5) civil liberties and civil rights;

7 (6) the Constitution of the State of Alaska and the Constitution of the  
8 United States;

9 (7) political parties and interest groups;

10 (8) campaigns and elections;

11 (9) the United States Congress;

12 (10) domestic policy;

13 (11) foreign policy;

14 (12) comparative systems of governments used globally and by Alaska  
15 Natives;

16 (13) international relations; and

17 (14) major issues facing local, state, and the United States  
18 governments.

19 (c) A school may not issue a secondary school diploma to a student unless the  
20 student

21 (1) has completed one semester of a comparative government and  
22 civics education course that includes instruction on the topics listed in (b) of this  
23 section;

24 (2) has achieved a passing score on the civics assessment developed  
25 under (a) of this section;

26 (3) provides the governing body with evidence that the student has  
27 achieved a passing score on a test similar to the civics assessment developed under (a)  
28 of this section within the previous five years;

29 (4) has achieved a passing score on a civics project-based assessment  
30 developed under (a) of this section;

31 (5) provides the governing body with evidence that the student has

1 achieved a passing score on a civics project-based assessment similar to the civics  
2 project-based assessment developed under (a) of this section while in high school; or

3 (6) is a student with a disability who receives a waiver from the  
4 governing body.

5 (d) Notwithstanding (c) of this section, a school may issue a secondary school  
6 diploma to a student who has not met the requirements of (c) of this section if the  
7 student transferred into a state public school after completing grade 10 or has already  
8 successfully completed a high school state history course from another state.

9 (e) If a student has achieved a passing score on the civics assessment  
10 developed under (a) of this section, the school shall document on the student's  
11 transcript that the student achieved a passing score. A student may retake the  
12 assessment as needed to achieve a passing score.

13 (f) The department shall adopt regulations to recognize a student who has  
14 attained a high level of proficiency in civic knowledge, civic skills, a civic mindset,  
15 and civic experiences by affixing a seal of civic readiness on the student's school  
16 transcript and diploma.

17 (g) A school district shall allow a student to fulfill the requirements of (c) of  
18 this section by taking a comparative government and civics education course that  
19 includes instruction on the topics listed in (b) of this section. A school district may  
20 allow a student to fulfill the requirements of (c) of this section by achieving a passing  
21 score on a civics assessment or civics project-based assessment.

22 (h) In this section, "passing score" means a student correctly answers 70  
23 percent or more of the questions on a civics assessment or receives a score of 70  
24 percent or higher on a civics project-based assessment.

25 \* **Sec. 2.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to  
26 read:

27 **TRANSITION: GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS.** The requirement that a school  
28 only issue a secondary school diploma to a student who has met the requirements set out in  
29 AS 14.03.076(c), enacted by sec. 1 of this Act, applies to students who enter grade nine on or  
30 after July 1, 2027.

31 \* **Sec. 3.** This Act takes effect July 1, 2027.