

HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 23()
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY

Offered:
Referred:

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 education and**
6 **assessments requirement.** (a) The board shall make available on the department's
7 Internet website and periodically update a list of open educational resources relating to
8 comparative government and civics education curriculum, civics assessments, and
9 civics project-based assessments. A school district may use the list provided by the
10 board to instruct students in comparative government and civics.

11 (b) The list provided under (a) of this section must include resources about
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;

15 (2) federalism, including the role and operations of local, state, and

1 national governments;

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

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

5 (5) civil liberties and civil rights;

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

8 (7) political parties and interest groups;

9 (8) campaigns and elections;

10 (9) the United States Congress;

11 (10) domestic policy;

12 (11) foreign policy;

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

15 (13) international relations; and

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

18 (c) A school may not issue a secondary school diploma to a student unless the
19 student has received instruction on the topics listed in (b) of this section and the
20 student has

21 (1) completed one semester of a comparative government and civics
22 education course and achieved a passing score in the course;

23 (2) achieved a passing score on a civics assessment; or

24 (3) achieved a passing score on a civics project-based assessment.

25 (d) Notwithstanding (c) of this section, a school may issue a secondary school
26 diploma to a student who has not met the requirements of (c) of this section if the
27 student provides the governing body with evidence that the student

28 (1) transferred into a public school in the state after completing grade
29 10 at a school in another state;

30 (2) has, either within the previous five years or from a secondary
31 school in another state, received instruction on the subjects listed in (b) of this section

1 and achieved a passing score in a one-semester course or on a civics assessment or
2 civics-project-based assessment that is similar to the course or assessments described
3 in (c) of this section; or

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

6 (e) If a student has achieved a passing score as required under (c) of this
7 section, the school shall document on the student's transcript that the student achieved
8 a passing score. A student may retake the assessment required under (c)(2) of this
9 section as needed to achieve a passing score.

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

14 (g) In this section,

15 (1) "open educational resource" means learning, teaching, or research
16 material in any format that resides in the public domain or is under copyright and has
17 been released under an open license that permits access at no cost as well as reuse,
18 repurpose, adaptation, and redistribution by others;

19 (2) "passing score" means a student achieves a grade of 70 percent or
20 higher in a one-semester course, correctly answers 70 percent or more of the questions
21 on a civics assessment, or achieves a score of 70 percent or higher on a civics project-
22 based assessment.

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

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

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