

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 72(FIN)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Offered: 2/9/22

Referred: Rules

Sponsor(s): SENATORS STEVENS, Begich, Hughes, Micciche, Myers, Revak, Stedman, Kawasaki, Costello, von Imhof, Hoffman, Bishop, Shower

REPRESENTATIVES Spohnholz, Johnson

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. Civics curriculum and assessment requirement.** (a) The
6 board shall develop and periodically review a statewide civics education curriculum
7 and assessment that are based on the civics portion of the naturalization examination
8 used by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services of the Department of
9 Homeland Security and primary source documents. The curriculum and assessment
10 must also include systems of government used by Alaska Natives. A district may use
11 the curriculum to educate students in civics.

12 (b) A school may not issue a secondary school diploma to a student unless the
13 student

14 (1) has achieved a passing score on the civics assessment developed

1 under (a) of this section; or

2 (2) is a student with a disability and receives a waiver from the
3 governing body.

4 (c) If a student has achieved a passing score on the civics assessment
5 developed under (a) of this section, the school shall document on the student's
6 transcript that the student achieved a passing score. A student may retake the
7 assessment as needed to achieve a passing score.

8 (d) A district shall annually provide to the department a report that includes a
9 description of the civics courses offered in the district, average student performance on
10 the civics assessment, and other civics curriculum information as required by the
11 department in regulation.

12 (e) In this section, "passing score" means a student correctly answers 70
13 percent or more of the questions on the civics assessment.

14 * **Sec. 2.** AS 14.07.168 is amended to read:

15 **Sec. 14.07.168. Report to the legislature.** Not later than the 30th legislative
16 day of each regular session of the legislature, the board shall prepare and present [IN
17 PERSON] to the legislative committees having jurisdiction over education an annual
18 report that describes the efforts of the board to develop, maintain, and continuously
19 improve a comprehensive quality public education system, as provided for under the
20 bylaws of the board. The report must include

21 (1) a summary of the resolves and rationales provided in support of
22 policy decisions made under AS 14.03.015;

23 (2) program and curriculum changes made, discussed, or
24 recommended in meetings held under AS 14.07.125;

25 (3) additional information relevant to efforts made to improve and
26 maintain the public education system;

27 **(4) a description of the civics education curriculum in the state**
28 **public school system, civics courses offered in each district, and student**
29 **performance by district on the civics assessment developed under AS 14.03.076.**

30 * **Sec. 3.** This Act takes effect July 1, 2023.