

HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 29(EDC)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Offered: 4/29/24

Referred: Finance

Sponsor(s): SENATORS STEVENS, Tobin, Giessel, Bjorkman, Claman, Bishop, Stedman, Kaufman, Gray-Jackson, Hughes, Dunbar, Wielechowski, Kawasaki

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 **assessment requirement.** (a) The board shall develop and periodically review a
7 statewide comparative government and civics education curriculum and assessment
8 that are based on the civics portion of the naturalization examination used by the
9 United States Citizenship and Immigration Services of the Department of Homeland
10 Security and primary source documents. The curriculum and assessment must also
11 include, to the maximum extent practicable, comparative systems of government used
12 around the world and those used by Alaska Natives. The assessment must include a
13 project-based assessment option. A district may use the curriculum to educate students
14 in comparative government and civics.

(b) The curriculum and assessment developed under (a) of this section must include at least three hours of instruction about the history of communist regimes around the world, including information about suppression of speech and the rates of poverty, starvation, migration, and systemic lethal violence in those regimes, and must include discussion of

- (1) Mao Zedong and the Chinese cultural revolution;
- (2) Vladimir Lenin and the Russian revolution;
- (3) Joseph Stalin and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics;
- (4) Fidel Castro and the Cuban revolution;
- (5) Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge; or
- (6) Nicolás Maduro and the chavismo movement.

(c) A school may not issue a secondary school diploma to a student unless the student has completed one semester of a comparative government and civics education course taught using the curriculum developed under (a) and (b) of this section and

- (1) has achieved a passing score on the comparative government and civics assessment developed under (a) of this section;
- (2) has completed a project-based assessment developed under (a) of this section; or
- (3) is a student with a disability who receives a waiver from the governing body.

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

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

(f) In this section, "passing score" means a student correctly answers 70 percent or more of the questions.

* **Sec. 2.** This Act takes effect July 1, 2025.