

1                   **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2                               STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3                               1st Session of the 56th Legislature (2017)

4   HOUSE BILL 1941

                              By: Baker and Caldwell

7                               AS INTRODUCED

8           An Act relating to schools; creating the Oklahoma  
9           Civics Education Initiative Act; requiring students  
10          to take and pass the United States Citizenship Test  
11          to graduate or receive a GED diploma; specifying  
12          required test; requiring school districts and the  
13          State Board of Career and Technology Education to  
14          administer or provide for administration of the test;  
15          requiring students to take and pass test prior to  
16          graduation or before receiving a GED diploma;  
17          defining successful passage; providing for retake  
18          opportunities for certain students; requiring school  
19          districts to report certain scores on high school  
20          transcripts; providing for certain statements for  
21          students who have individualized education programs;  
22          providing for certain accommodations; requiring  
23          certain documentation; allowing certain students with  
24          disabilities to graduate after failure to pass the  
            United States Citizenship Test; providing criteria  
            for graduation; providing for assessment of students  
            identified as English language learners; providing  
            for codification; providing for noncodification; and  
            providing an effective date.

21   BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

22           SECTION 1.       NEW LAW       A new section of law not to be  
23           codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:  
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1        This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma Civics  
2 Education Initiative Act".

3        SECTION 2.        NEW LAW        A new section of law to be codified  
4 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.517 of Title 70, unless  
5 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

6        A.    Except as otherwise provided for in this section, beginning  
7 with the 2018-2019 school year, every student enrolled in a public  
8 school or seeking a diploma issued by the state upon completion of  
9 the General Educational Development (GED) test shall take and  
10 receive a passing grade on the United States Citizenship Test,  
11 administered by the United States Citizenship and Immigration  
12 Services (USCIS), in order to graduate from high school with a  
13 standard diploma or to receive a GED diploma issued by the state.

14        B.    The test required pursuant to this section shall be the  
15 specific test which includes one hundred civics questions, as  
16 administered by the United States Citizenship and Immigration  
17 Services (USCIS) and which is required of all applicants applying  
18 for United States citizenship. Each school district shall  
19 administer the test to students enrolled in the school district.  
20 The State Board of Career and Technology Education shall provide for  
21 the administration of the test to students seeking a GED diploma.

22        C.    Students shall be required to take all one hundred questions  
23 on the United States Citizenship Test and to successfully pass the  
24 test prior to graduation or prior to receiving a GED diploma, unless

1 otherwise exempt by law. In order to successfully pass the test, a  
2 student shall attain a minimum score of not less than sixty percent  
3 (60%) correct answers on the one-hundred-question test.

4 D. Students who do not successfully pass the United States  
5 Citizenship Test shall be given the opportunity to retake the test  
6 as many times as necessary for passage.

7 E. School districts shall report the highest-achieved score on  
8 the United States Citizenship Test on the high school transcript of  
9 the student in order to ensure the requirements of the Oklahoma  
10 Civics Education Initiative Act are completed.

11 F. 1. Students who have individualized education programs  
12 pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)  
13 shall have an appropriate statement on the student's individualized  
14 education program requiring administration of the United States  
15 Citizenship Test with or without accommodations or an alternate  
16 test. Any accommodations normally employed for assessments shall be  
17 approved by the State Board of Education and be provided for in the  
18 individualized education program. All documentation for each  
19 student shall be on file in the school prior to administration of  
20 the test.

21 2. Students with disabilities whose individualized education  
22 program (IEP) pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities  
23 Education Act (IDEA) indicates that the student is to be assessed  
24 with alternate achievement standards through the Oklahoma Alternate

1 Assessment Program (OAAP) may be eligible to graduate from a public  
2 high school with a standard diploma after failing to successfully  
3 pass the United States Citizenship Test upon the determination of  
4 the school district that the student meets the following criteria:

- 5 a. obtains a written recommendation from the student's  
6 teacher of record. The recommendation shall be  
7 supported by the principal and by documentation  
8 demonstrating the acquired knowledge of the student by  
9 alternate measures as required by the individualized  
10 education program (IEP),
- 11 b. completes remediation opportunities to the extent  
12 required by the individualized education program  
13 (IEP),
- 14 c. retakes the test to meet the requirements of  
15 subsection A of this section if the individualized  
16 education program (IEP) requires retake opportunities,  
17 and
- 18 d. meets all other graduation requirements of the school  
19 district in which the student is enrolled.

20 3. Students identified as English language learners shall be  
21 assessed in a valid and reliable manner with acceptable  
22 accommodations as necessary or, to the extent practicable, with an  
23 alternate assessment aligned to the United States Citizenship Test  
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1 provided by the school district in the language and form most likely  
2 to yield accurate data of the student's knowledge of civics.

3 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2017.  
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5 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON COMMON EDUCATION, dated 02/21/2017  
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