

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 56th Legislature (2017)

HOUSE BILL 1941

By: Baker and Caldwell

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; creating the Oklahoma Civics Education Initiative Act; requiring students to take and pass the United States Citizenship Test to graduate or receive a GED diploma; specifying required test; requiring school districts and the State Board of Career and Technology Education to administer or provide for administration of the test; requiring students to take and pass test prior to graduation or before receiving a GED diploma; defining successful passage; providing for retake opportunities for certain students; requiring school districts to report certain scores on high school transcripts; providing for certain statements for students who have individualized education programs; providing for certain accommodations; requiring certain documentation; allowing certain students with 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.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma Civics Education Initiative Act".

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

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

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

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

1 student shall attain a minimum score of not less than sixty percent
2 (60%) correct answers on the one-hundred-question test.

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

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

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

20 2. Students with disabilities whose individualized education
21 program (IEP) pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities
22 Education Act (IDEA) indicates that the student is to be assessed
23 with alternate achievement standards through the Oklahoma Alternate
24 Assessment Program (OAAP) may be eligible to graduate from a public

1 high school with a standard diploma after failing to successfully
2 pass the United States Citizenship Test upon the determination of
3 the school district that the student meets the following criteria:

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

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

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2017.

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