

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
[TRULY AGREED TO AND FINALLY PASSED]
SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

HOUSE BILL NOS. 1646, 2132 & 1621

98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

4816S.04T

2016

AN ACT

To repeal section 170.011, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof three new sections relating to civics education.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 170.011, RSMo, is repealed and three new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 170.011, 170.345, and 170.350, to read as follows:

170.011. 1. Regular courses of instruction in the Constitution of the United States and of the state of Missouri and in American history and institutions shall be given in all public and private schools in the state of Missouri, except privately operated trade schools, and shall begin not later than the seventh grade and continue in high school to an extent determined by the state commissioner of education, and shall continue in college and university courses to an extent determined by the state commissioner of higher education. In the 1990-91 school year and each year thereafter, local school districts maintaining high schools shall comply with the provisions of this section by offering in grade nine, ten, eleven, or twelve a course of instruction in the institutions, branches and functions of the government of the state of Missouri, including local governments, and of the government of the United States, and in the electoral process. A local school district maintaining such a high school shall require that prior to the completion of the twelfth grade each pupil who receives a high school diploma or certificate of graduation on or after January 1, 1994, shall satisfactorily complete such a course of study. Such course shall be of at least one semester in length and may be two semesters in length. The department of

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

15 elementary and secondary education may provide assistance in developing such a course if the
16 district requests assistance. A school district may elect to waive the requirements of this
17 subsection for any student who transfers from outside the state to a Missouri high school if the
18 student can furnish documentation deemed acceptable by the school district of the student's
19 successful completion in any year from the ninth through the twelfth grade of a course of
20 instruction in the institutions, branches, and functions of state government, including local
21 governments, and of the government of the United States, and in the electoral process.

22 2. American history courses at the elementary and secondary levels shall include in their
23 proper time-line sequence specific referrals to the details and events of the racial equality
24 movement that have caused major changes in United States and Missouri laws and attitudes.

25 3. No pupil shall receive a certificate of graduation from any public or private school
26 other than private trade schools unless he **or she** has satisfactorily passed an examination on the
27 provisions and principles of the Constitution of the United States and of the state of Missouri,
28 and in American history [and], American institutions, **and American civics**. A school district
29 may elect to waive the requirements of this subsection for any student who transfers from outside
30 the state to a Missouri high school if the student can furnish documentation deemed acceptable
31 by the school district of the student's successful completion in any year from the ninth through
32 the twelfth grade of a course of instruction in the institutions, branches, and functions of state
33 government, including local governments, and of the government of the United States, and in
34 the electoral process. A student of a college or university, who, after having completed a course
35 of instruction prescribed in this section and successfully passed an examination on the United
36 States Constitution, and in American history and American institutions required hereby, transfers
37 to another college or university, is not required to complete another such course or pass another
38 such examination as a condition precedent to his graduation from the college or university.

39 4. In the 1990-91 school year and each year thereafter, each school district maintaining
40 a high school may annually nominate to the state board of education a student who has
41 demonstrated knowledge of the principles of government and citizenship through academic
42 achievement, participation in extracurricular activities, and service to the community. Annually,
43 the state board of education shall select fifteen students from those nominated by the local school
44 districts and shall recognize and award them for their academic achievement, participation and
45 service.

46 5. The provisions of this section shall not apply to students from foreign countries who
47 are enrolled in public or private high schools in Missouri, if such students are foreign exchange
48 students sponsored by a national organization recognized by the department of elementary and
49 secondary education.

**170.345. 1. This section shall be known as the "Missouri Civics Education
2 Initiative".**

3 **2. Any student entering the ninth grade after July 1, 2017, who is attending any**
4 **public, charter, or private school, except private trade schools, as a condition of high school**
5 **graduation shall pass an examination on the provisions and principles of American civics.**

6 **3. The examination shall consist of one hundred questions similar to the one**
7 **hundred questions used by the USCIS that are administered to applicants for U.S.**
8 **citizenship.**

9 **4. The examination required under this section may be included in any other**
10 **examination that is administered on the provisions and principles of the Constitution of the**
11 **United States and of the state of Missouri, and in American history and American**
12 **institutions, as required in subsection 3 of section 170.011.**

13 **5. School districts may use any online test to comply with the provisions of this**
14 **section.**

15 **6. Each school district shall adopt a policy to permit the waiver of the requirements**
16 **of this section for any student with a disability if recommended by the student's IEP**
17 **committee. For purposes of this subsection, "IEP" means individualized education**
18 **program.**

170.350. A school district may develop a policy that allows student participation in
2 **the Constitution Project of the Missouri Supreme Court to be recognized by:**

3 **(1) The granting of credit for some portion of, or in collaboration with:**

4 **(a) Inclusion in the student's record of good citizenship as required by the A+**
5 **tuition reimbursement program under section 160.545; or**

6 **(b) The Missouri and United States Constitution course required under section**
7 **170.011; or**

8 **(c) Any relevant course or instructional unit in American government or a similar**
9 **subject; or**

10 **(2) District or school-level awards including, but not limited to, certificates or**
11 **assemblies.**

✓