

State of South Dakota

NINETY-FOURTH SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2019

400B0375

HOUSE BILL NO. 1066

Introduced by: The Committee on State Affairs at the request of the Office of the Governor

1 FOR AN ACT ENTITLED, An Act to require students to take a civics test before graduating
2 from high school.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

4 Section 1. That chapter 13-33 be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

5 Each student enrolled in a public school, enrolled in a nonpublic school, or receiving
6 alternative instruction pursuant to § 13-27-3, shall demonstrate knowledge and understanding
7 of the fundamentals of the history, principles, and form of the United States government before
8 graduating from high school. A student, in order to receive a high school diploma, shall
9 correctly answer at least seventy percent of the questions on the civics test. A student may take
10 the test at any time after enrolling in grade nine and may repeat the test as often as necessary to
11 demonstrate proficiency.

12 For the purposes of this Act, the civics test is at least fifty of the one hundred questions from
13 the test administered by officers of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services to
14 test applicants for naturalization.

15 Section 2. That chapter 13-33 be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:



1 No school or person may charge any fee in connection with the civics test. A student may
2 be exempted from the requirement in section 1 of this Act if it is consistent with the student's
3 individualized education program.

4 Section 3. That chapter 13-33 be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

5 The requirement in section 1 of this Act applies to each student beginning in the 2019-2020
6 school year. Each public school and school seeking state accreditation shall annually report to
7 the Department of Education the score recorded for any test administered under section 1 of this
8 Act. The report shall be made at least annually and in accordance with § 13-3-51.