LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF IDAHO
Sixty-third Legislature
First Regular Session - 2015

IN THE SENATE

SENATE BILL NO. 1071, As Amended

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT
RELATING TO COURSES OF INSTRUCTION; AMENDING SECTION 33-1602, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE THAT SECONDARY PUPILS MUST SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE A CIVICS TEST TO SHOW THAT THE STUDENT HAS MET CERTAIN STANDARDS, TO PROVIDE FOR DOCUMENTATION, TO ALLOW SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO ADMINISTER THE CIVICS TEST, TO ALLOW PUPILS TO RETAKE THE CIVICS TEST AND TO DEFINE A TERM.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. That Section 33-1602, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

33-1602. UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION -- NATIONAL FLAG AND COLORS -- NATIONAL ANTHEM -- "AMERICA" -- CITIZENSHIP -- CIVICS TEST. (1) Instruction in the Constitution of the United States shall be given in all elementary and secondary schools. The state board of education shall adopt such materials as may be deemed necessary for said purpose, and shall also determine the grades in which such instruction shall be given.

(2) Instruction in the proper use, display and history of and respect for the American flag and the national colors shall be given in all elementary and secondary schools. Such instruction shall include the pledge of allegiance to the flag, the words and music of the national anthem, and of "America."

(3) Every school board of trustees shall cause the United States flag to be displayed in every classroom during the school hours of each school day.

(4) Every public school shall offer the pledge of allegiance or the national anthem in grades one (1) through twelve (12) at the beginning of each school day.

(5) No pupil shall be compelled, against the pupil's objections or those of the pupil's parent or guardian, to recite the pledge of allegiance or to sing the national anthem.

(6) Instruction in citizenship shall be given in all elementary and secondary schools. Citizenship instruction shall include lessons on the role of a citizen in a constitutional republic, how laws are made, how officials are elected, and the importance of voting and of participating in government. Such instruction shall also include the importance of respecting and obeying statutes which are validly and lawfully enacted by the Idaho legislature and the congress of the United States.

(7) Starting with the 2016-2017 school year, all secondary pupils must show they have met the state civics and government standards for such instruction through the successful completion of the civics test or alternate path established by the local school district or charter school that shows the student has met the standards. Assessment of standards shall be included as part of the course at the secondary level. A school district or public charter school shall document on the pupil's transcript that the pupil has
passed the civics test pursuant to this subsection. The school district or
governing body of the charter school may determine the method and manner in
which to administer the civics test. A pupil may take the civics test, in
whole or in part, at any time after enrolling in grade 7 and may repeat the
test as often as necessary to pass the test. For the purposes of this subsec-
tion, "civics test" means the one hundred (100) questions used by officers
of the United States citizenship and immigration services as a basis for se-
lecting the questions posed to applicants for naturalization, in order that
the applicants can demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the funda-
mentals of United States history and the principles and form of United States
government, as required by 8 U.S.C. section 1423. The state board of educa-
tion may promulgate rules implementing the provisions of this subsection.