

## HOUSE BILL NO. HB0129

Civics proficiency examination.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Olsen, Brown, Clem, Flitner, Henderson, Lindholm, Miller, Northrup and Piiparinen and Senator(s) Agar, Bebout, Biteman, Boner, Case, Coe and Pappas

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to education; requiring passage of an  
2 examination on the principles of the constitution of the  
3 United States and the state of Wyoming to receive a high  
4 school diploma, associate degree, baccalaureate degree or  
5 high school equivalency certificate; specifying examination  
6 requirements and composition; providing legislative findings;  
7 and providing for an effective date.

8

9 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

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11 **Section 1.** W.S. 21-2-304(a)(iv) and 21-9-102 are  
12 amended to read:

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1           **21-2-304. Duties of the state board of education.**

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3           (a) The state board of education shall:

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5                   (iv) In consultation with local school districts,  
6 establish requirements for students to earn a high school  
7 diploma as evidenced by course completion and passage of an  
8 examination on the principles of the constitution of the  
9 United States and the state of Wyoming in accordance with  
10 W.S. 21-9-102, and as measured by each district's assessment  
11 system prescribed by rule and regulation of the state board  
12 and required under W.S. 21-3-110(a)(xxiv). Once every five  
13 (5) years and on a staggered basis, the state board shall  
14 through the department, review and approve each district's  
15 assessment system designed to determine the various levels of  
16 student performance as aligned with the uniform state  
17 standards and the attainment of high school graduation  
18 requirements as evidenced by course completion and passage of  
19 an examination on the principles of the constitution of the  
20 United States and the state of Wyoming in accordance with  
21 W.S. 21-9-102. In addition and following review, refinement  
22 and revision of student content and performance standards  
23 adopted under paragraph (a)(iii) of this section and reviewed

1 under subsection (c) of this section, the board shall  
2 establish a process to ensure district assessment systems are  
3 aligned with the refined and revised standards within three  
4 (3) full school years following adoption of revised  
5 standards;

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7 **21-9-102. Instruction in state and federal**  
8 **constitutions required; satisfactory examination a**  
9 **prerequisite to graduation and high school equivalency**  
10 **certification; composition of examination.**

11

12 (a) The state of Wyoming finds that the study of  
13 American civics encompasses what it means to be a good  
14 citizen, fosters an understanding of how government works and  
15 informs citizens on how they can participate and influence  
16 their government.

17

18 (b) All schools and colleges in this state that are  
19 supported in any manner by public funds shall give instruction  
20 in the essentials of the United States constitution and the  
21 constitution of the state of Wyoming, including the study of  
22 and devotion to American institution and ideals. ~~and no~~  
23 ~~student shall receive a high school diploma, associate degree~~

1 ~~or baccalaureate degree without satisfactorily passing an~~  
2 ~~examination on the principles of the constitution of the~~  
3 ~~United States and the state of Wyoming.~~ The instruction shall  
4 be given for at least three (3) years in kindergarten through  
5 grade eight (8) and for one (1) year each in the secondary  
6 and college grades.

7  
8 (c) No student shall receive a high school diploma,  
9 associate degree, baccalaureate degree or, beginning school  
10 year 2020-2021, a high school equivalency certificate without  
11 satisfactorily passing an examination on the principles of  
12 the constitution of the United States and the state of  
13 Wyoming. Subject to W.S. 21-9-101(c), every student in grades  
14 nine (9) through twelve (12) shall be afforded at least one  
15 (1) opportunity per school year to take the examination. A  
16 student pursuing a high school equivalency certificate shall  
17 be afforded the opportunity to take the examination as part  
18 of the Wyoming community college commission's high school  
19 equivalency certification program. A student may take the  
20 examination as many times as necessary to pass it.

21  
22 (d) Beginning school year 2020-2021, the examination  
23 shall consist of one hundred (100) questions identical to the

1 questions the United States citizenship and immigration  
2 services may ask an individual during the application process  
3 for United States citizenship in accordance with 8 U.S.C. §  
4 1423. To pass the examination, a student shall answer  
5 correctly not less than sixty percent (60%) of the  
6 examination's questions.

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8 (e) This section is subject to a student's  
9 individualized education program under the federal  
10 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, as amended.

11

12 **Section 2.** This act is effective July 1, 2019.

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(END)