

State of Arkansas  
91st General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2017

As Engrossed: S3/2/17  
**A Bill**

HOUSE BILL 1539

By: Representatives Cozart, Deffenbaugh, Eubanks, Lowery, Davis, Della Rosa, G. Hodges, Beck, Sullivan, Speaks, Gates, Sturch, Cavanaugh, Warren, Dotson, Lundstrum  
By: Senators Rapert, J. English, J. Hendren, B. Johnson, Hester, Bledsoe, Caldwell, Flippo, Rice, D. Sanders, G. Stubblefield, A. Clark, E. Williams, Collins-Smith, J. Cooper

### For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE PASSAGE OF THE CIVICS PORTION OF THE NATURALIZATION TEST USED BY UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES BEFORE A STUDENT MAY RECEIVE A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR A HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY DIPLOMA FROM A STATE ENTITY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

### Subtitle

TO REQUIRE THE PASSAGE OF THE CIVICS PORTION OF THE NATURALIZATION TEST USED BY UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES BEFORE A STUDENT MAY RECEIVE A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY DIPLOMA.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 16, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-16-149. United States citizenship civics test.

(a)(1) Beginning in the 2018-2019 school year, in order to receive a high school diploma from a public school or a high school equivalency diploma from a state entity, a student shall:

(A) Take a test that is identical to the civics portion of



the naturalization test used by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services; and

(B) Correctly answer at least sixty (60) of the one hundred (100) test questions.

(2) A student may retake the test as many times as necessary to achieve a passing score.

(b) The State Board of Education shall determine the method and manner by which to administer a test that is identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test used by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.

(c) The requirement under subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to a student who:

(1) Is exempted in accordance with the student's individualized education program;

(2) Attends school in the Corrections School System under § 12-29-301 et seq.; or

(3) Is over eighteen (18) years of age and seeking a high school equivalency diploma.

/s/Cozart

**APPROVED: 03/14/2017**