

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21

H.793

Introduced by Representatives Brumsted of Shelburne, Bancroft of Westford,
Baser of Bristol, Batchelor of Derby, Belaski of Windsor, Bock
of Chester, Brennan of Colchester, Burditt of West Rutland,
Christensen of Weathersfield, Christie of Hartford, Cina of
Burlington, Connor of Fairfield, Cupoli of Rutland City, Dakin
of Colchester, Devereux of Mount Holly, Dickinson of St.
Albans Town, Donahue of Northfield, Dunn of Essex, Fagan of
Rutland City, Feltus of Lyndon, Gage of Rutland City,
Gamache of Swanton, Gannon of Wilmington, Gonzalez of
Winooski, Graham of Williamstown, Harrison of Chittenden,
Head of South Burlington, Helm of Fair Haven, Hooper of
Randolph, Houghton of Essex, Joseph of North Hero,
Juskiewicz of Cambridge, Keefe of Manchester, Keenan of
St. Albans City, Kimbell of Woodstock, Kitzmiller of
Montpelier, LaClair of Barre Town, Lawrence of Lyndon,
Lefebvre of Newark, Lewis of Berlin, Lucke of Hartford,
Macaig of Williston, Marcotte of Coventry, Masland of
Thetford, Mattos of Milton, McFaun of Barre Town, Morrissey
of Bennington, Mrowicki of Putney, Myers of Essex, Nolan of
Morristown, Norris of Shoreham, Noyes of Wolcott, O’Sullivan

1 of Burlington, Pugh of South Burlington, Quimby of Concord,
2 Rosenquist of Georgia, Savage of Swanton, Scheu of
3 Middlebury, Shaw of Pittsford, Sheldon of Middlebury, Smith
4 of Derby, Smith of New Haven, Squirrell of Underhill, Strong
5 of Albany, Terenzini of Rutland Town, Till of Jericho, Toll of
6 Danville, Townsend of South Burlington, Weed of Enosburgh,
7 Willhoit of St. Johnsbury, Wood of Waterbury, Wright of
8 Burlington, Yacovone of Morristown, and Yantachka of
9 Charlotte

10 Referred to Committee on

11 Date:

12 Subject: Education; secondary education; course of study; civics

13 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require public
14 high school students to pass a civics test as a condition of graduation.

15 An act relating to the requirement to pass a civics test for high school
16 graduation

17 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

18 Sec. 1. GOALS

19 In order to ensure that Vermont public school students who are awarded a
20 high school diploma have a basic understanding of U.S. civics and history and

1 to promote and encourage active and engaged citizenship, Vermont students
2 shall pass, as a condition of being awarded a high school diploma, the basic
3 civics test produced by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and
4 administered to all applicants for U.S. citizenship.

5 Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 914 is added to read:

6 § 914. HIGH SCHOOL CIVICS TEST REQUIREMENT

7 (a) Vermont students shall, as a condition of being awarded a high school
8 diploma, take and receive a passing grade on the U.S. citizenship civics test,
9 produced by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and administered
10 to all applicants for U.S. citizenship, subject to the following terms and
11 conditions:

12 (1) students shall be tested on all questions on the civics test, with a
13 minimum score of 60 percent required for passage; and

14 (2) students may take the civics test as many times as may be necessary
15 for passage.

16 (b) This section applies to all students who are awarded a high school
17 diploma who attend a State public school or career technical center, but shall
18 not apply to students who are in special education programs.

19 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

20 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2018 and shall apply to high school
21 students who graduate in or after the 2020 academic year.