

1 S.17

2 Introduced by Senators McCormack, Benning, Bray, Brock, Clarkson,

3 Collamore, Hooker, Pollina, Terenzini and White

4 Referred to Committee on

5 Date:

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

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require public
8 high school students to pass a civics course as a condition of graduation.

9 An act relating to the requirement to pass a civics course for high school
10 graduation

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

12 Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 914 is added to read:

13 § 914. HIGH SCHOOL CIVICS COURSE REQUIREMENT

14 (a) Vermont students shall, as a condition of being awarded a high school
15 diploma, take and receive a passing grade in a course in U.S. civics. The
16 curriculum for this course shall include:

17 (1) philosophical principles, including:

18 (A) unalienable rights;

19 (B) contract theory of government;

20 (C) popular sovereignty;

1 (D) republican principles; and

2 (E) democracy; and

3 (2) the U.S. Constitution, including:

4 (A) separation of powers and checks and balances;

5 (B) majority rule;

6 (C) minority rights and individual rights as articulated in the Bill of

7 Rights and the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution;

8 (D) federalism, including the Supremacy Clause (Article VI, Clause

9 2 of the U.S. Constitution), 10th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, and the

10 Necessary and Proper Clause (Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution);

11 and

12 (E) judicial review, including the doctrines of plain meaning, original

13 intent, and inference.

14 (b) This section shall apply to all students who are awarded a high school

15 diploma who attend a State public school or a career technical center but shall

16 not apply to students who are in special education programs.

17 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

18 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2021 and shall apply to high school

19 students who graduate in or after the 2023–2024 academic year.