## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

## HOUSE BILL No. 564 Session of 2017

INTRODUCED BY BOBACK, KORTZ, BIZZARRO, McNEILL, BARRAR, SAINATO, KAUFFMAN, STAATS, O'BRIEN, MILLARD, MACKENZIE, MURT, WATSON, NEILSON, READSHAW, WARD, COX, STURLA, GABLER, FREEMAN, SOLOMON, RADER, PYLE, SACCONE, D. COSTA, TOOHIL, ROE, HAHN, PICKETT, ELLIS, DeLISSIO, LONGIETTI, HARKINS, FABRIZIO, YOUNGBLOOD, CUTLER, PASHINSKI, RYAN, DIAMOND, RAVENSTAHL, ENGLISH, ROTHMAN, RAPP, ROEBUCK, EVERETT, BURNS, DALEY, HELM, V. BROWN, JAMES, DONATUCCI, BENNINGHOFF, GOODMAN AND DUSH, FEBRUARY 21, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, FEBRUARY 21, 2017

## AN ACT

1 2 3 4 5 6	Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An act relating to the public school system, including certain provisions applicable as well to private and parochial schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the laws relating thereto," in high schools, providing for civics test graduation requirement.
7	The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
8	hereby enacts as follows:
9	Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known
10	as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding a
11	section to read:
12	Section 1613.1. Civics Test Graduation Requirement(a)
13	Notwithstanding 22 Pa. Code §4.24 (relating to high school
14	graduation requirements), beginning in the 2020-2021 school year
15	and in each school year thereafter, each school entity shall
16	require a student, as a condition of high school graduation, to

1	<u>correctly answer at least sixty percent (60%) of the questions</u>
2	on a test that is identical to the one hundred (100) question
3	civics test used by the United States Citizenship and
4	Immigration Services.
5	(b) Each school entity may administer the test required
6	under subsection (a) in any grade from grades seven through
7	twelve, and shall:
8	(1) Determine the manner in which the test shall be
9	administered.
10	(2) Offer students the opportunity to take the test at least
11	three times each year as follows:
12	(i) Once in the fall.
13	(ii) Once in the spring
14	(iii) Once in the summer.
15	(3) Indicate that a student has satisfied the requirements
16	of this section in a student's academic record.
17	(c) Each student shall be permitted to take the test
18	required under subsection (a) as many times as necessary in
19	order to meet the requirements of this section.
20	(d) A student with an individualized education program shall
21	not be required to comply with the requirements of this section
22	if the provisions of the student's individualized education
23	program indicate otherwise.
24	(e) The chief school administrator of a school entity may
25	waive the requirements of this section for students in grade
26	twelve on a case by case basis for good cause in extenuating
27	circumstances. Waivers granted under this subsection shall not
28	exceed ten percent (10%) of the students in the graduating class
29	of the school entity.
30	(f) The department shall post on its publicly accessible

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1	Internet website links to the one hundred (100) question civics
2	test used by the United States Citizenship and Immigration
3	Services and any related resources offered by the United States
4	Citizenship and Immigration Services. The department shall also
5	post on its publicly accessible Internet website any additional
6	materials that the department deems useful to school entities in
7	complying with the requirement in this section.
8	(g) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require
9	school entities to collect and report new data to the
10	department.
11	(h) As used in this section, the following words and phrases
12	shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection, unless
13	the context clearly indicates otherwise:
14	"School entity" shall mean each school district, area
15	vocational-technical school, intermediate unit, charter school,
16	cyber charter school, regional charter school, or nonpublic
17	school from which a student may graduate high school.
18	"Department" shall mean the Department of Education of the
19	Commonwealth.
20	"Individualized education program" shall mean an
21	individualized education program established under 22 Pa. Code
22	Ch. 14 (relating to special education services and programs).
23	Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.

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