



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

Hannah K. Wann

H.B. 544

131st General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Koehler and Landis, Cupp, Brenner, Romanchuk

BILL SUMMARY

- Permits high school students to take a civics assessment instead of the American government end-of-course exam.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

The bill

Beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, the bill permits a high school student to take a civics assessment instead of the American government end-of-course exam.¹ If the student opts to take the civics assessment, that assessment must be identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test used by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services Agency for a person to become a naturalized citizen of the United States. The bill specifies that, in order to pass the civics assessment, a student must answer at least 60% of the questions correctly. Students may retake the assessment until they attain a passing score. Each school district must determine the method and manner in which to administer the assessment.²

Background

Current law requires schools to administer seven end-of-course exams to high school students (beginning with students who enter the ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2014) as a part of the college and work ready assessment system. These end-of-course exams consist of:

¹ R.C. 3301.0712(B)(2) and (4).

² R.C. 3301.0712(B)(4)(a)(iii).

- (1) English language arts I;
- (2) English language arts II;
- (3) Science;
- (4) Algebra I;
- (5) Geometry;
- (6) American history; and
- (7) American government.³

If a student is enrolled in an Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) course in science, American history, or American government, that student must take the corresponding AP or IB exam in lieu of the end-of-course exam.⁴ If a student is enrolled in a course under any other advanced standing program (such as a college course under the College Credit Plus program) in science, American history, or American government, that student is not required to take the end-of-course exam in that subject area. Instead, that student's final grade in the course must be used.⁵

Attaining a prescribed cumulative score on the end-of-course exams is one of the alternative pathways to high school graduation under current law.⁶

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	05-03-16

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³ R.C. 3301.0712(B)(2).

⁴ R.C. 3301.0712(B)(4)(a)(i).

⁵ R.C. 3301.0712(B)(4)(a)(ii).

⁶ R.C. 3313.618, not in the bill.

