



97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2011 and 2012

HB1406

by Rep. Bill Mitchell

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/27-3

from Ch. 122, par. 27-3

Amends the School Code. Provides that, beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, students in grade 6 must successfully complete at least one semester of a civics education course that includes the roles and responsibilities of federal, State, and local governments; the structures and functions of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government; and the meaning and significance of historic documents, such as the Articles of Confederation, the Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution of the United States. Requires the State Board of Education to develop a statewide, standardized, end-of-course assessment in civics education for 6th grade students enrolled in a civics education course. Provides that (i) during the 2012-2013 school year, the end-of-course assessment in civics education must be administered as a field test; (ii) during the 2013-2014 school year, each student's performance on the end-of-course assessment in civics education shall constitute 30% of the student's final course grade; and (iii) beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, a student must earn a passing score on the end-of-course assessment in civics education in order to pass the course and receive course credit and in order to be promoted to the next higher grade level.

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FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

STATE MANDATES
ACT MAY REQUIRE
REIMBURSEMENT

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing Section
5 27-3 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/27-3) (from Ch. 122, par. 27-3)

7 Sec. 27-3. Civics; ~~Patriotism and principles of~~
8 ~~representative government — Proper use of flag — Method of~~
9 ~~voting —~~ Pledge of Allegiance.

10 (a) American patriotism and the principles of
11 representative government, as enunciated in the American
12 Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United
13 States of America and the Constitution of the State of
14 Illinois, and the proper use and display of the American flag,
15 shall be taught in all public schools and other educational
16 institutions supported or maintained in whole or in part by
17 public funds. No student shall receive a certificate of
18 graduation without passing a satisfactory examination upon
19 such subjects.

20 Instruction shall be given in all such schools and
21 institutions in the method of voting at elections by means of
22 the Australian Ballot system and the method of the counting of
23 votes for candidates.

1 (b) Beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, students in
2 grade 6 must successfully complete at least one semester of a
3 civics education course that includes the roles and
4 responsibilities of federal, State, and local governments; the
5 structures and functions of the legislative, executive, and
6 judicial branches of government; and the meaning and
7 significance of historic documents, such as the Articles of
8 Confederation, the Declaration of Independence, and the
9 Constitution of the United States.

10 The State Board of Education shall develop a statewide,
11 standardized, end-of-course assessment in civics education for
12 6th grade students enrolled in a civics education course.
13 During the 2012-2013 school year, the end-of-course assessment
14 in civics education must be administered as a field test.
15 During the 2013-2014 school year, each student's performance on
16 the end-of-course assessment in civics education shall
17 constitute 30% of the student's final course grade. Beginning
18 with the 2014-2015 school year, a student must earn a passing
19 score on the end-of-course assessment in civics education in
20 order to pass the course and receive course credit and in order
21 to be promoted to the next higher grade level.

22 (c) The Pledge of Allegiance shall be recited each school
23 day by pupils in elementary and secondary educational
24 institutions supported or maintained in whole or in part by
25 public funds.

26 (Source: P.A. 92-612, eff. 7-3-02.)