Sixty-fourth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Tuesday, January 6, 2015

HOUSE BILL NO. 1087
(Representatives Nathe, Larson, Schatz, Sanford, Carlson, Hunskor)
(Senators Heckaman, Flakoll, Wardner)

AN ACT to create and enact a new section to chapter 15.1-21 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the demonstration of proficiency in civics as a condition of high school graduation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. A new section to chapter 15.1-21 of the North Dakota Century Code is created and enacted as follows:

High school graduation requirement - Civics test.

1. For purposes of this section, "civics test" means the one hundred questions that, as of January 1, 2015, officers of the United States citizenship and immigration services use as the basis for selecting the questions posed to applicants for naturalization, in order that the applicants can demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of United States history and the principles and form of United States government, as required by 8 U.S.C. 1423.

2. a. If a student is enrolled in the twelfth grade during the 2016-17 school year, that student must, as a condition of receiving a high school diploma, correctly answer at least sixty percent of the questions on the civics test.

   b. Before any other student may be awarded a high school diploma, that student must correctly answer at least seventy percent of the questions on the civics test.

3. a. The requirement set forth in this section applies to each student who is:

      (1) Enrolled in a public school district;

      (2) Enrolled in a nonpublic school;

      (3) Enrolled in the center for distance education;

      (4) Receiving home education if the student is to be issued a high school diploma in accordance with subsection 1 of section 15.1-23-17; or

      (5) Pursuing a general equivalency diploma.

   b. A student may be exempted from the requirement of this section by the provisions of the student's individualized education program plan.

4. The superintendent of public instruction shall, upon request, provide to the person administering the civics test the correct answer or acceptable answers to each question.

5. A student may take the test, in whole or in part, at any time after enrolling in grade seven and may repeat the test, or any portion thereof, as often as necessary to demonstrate proficiency.

6. Neither the superintendent of public instruction nor a school district may impose or collect any fees or charges in connection with this section.

7. This section is applicable to any student who graduates from high school during or after the 2016-17 school year.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Sixty-fourth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1087.

House Vote:	Yeas 85	Nays 1	Absent 8
Senate Vote:	Yeas 43	Nays 4	Absent 0

Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at 4:17 P.M. on January 28, 2015.

Approved at 10:46 A.M. on January 30, 2015.

Governor

Filed in this office this 30th day of January, 2015,

at 12:13 o'clock P M.

Secretary of State