

KANSAS OFFICE of
REVISOR of STATUTES

LEGISLATURE of THE STATE of KANSAS
Legislative Attorneys transforming ideas into legislation.

300 SW TENTH AVENUE ■ SUITE 24-E ■ TOPEKA, KS 66612 ■ (785) 296-2321

MEMORANDUM

To: Chairman Huebert
Members of the House Committee on Education

From: Jason B. Long, Senior Assistant Revisor

Date: February 11, 2020

Subject: HB 2573 – Civics examination requirement

House Bill No. 2573 (HB 2573) would amend K.S.A. 72-3217, which requires that all accredited schools in Kansas provide a course on civil government, United States history, and the duties of a citizen. HB 2573 would add a requirement that students pass a civics examination based on the examination used for U.S. citizenship through naturalization. The student must achieve a passing score on the examination in order to graduate.

The examination requirement would apply to students enrolling in 9th grade after July 1, 2020. Students required to pass the exam can request to take it starting in 7th grade, and may take the exam as many times as necessary to obtain a passing score. If a student has an IEP then the requirement to take the exam and any accommodations will be governed by the student's IEP.

The examination must be substantially similar to the U.S. naturalization exam. The State Board of Education may adopt a model examination and recommended passing score.

If enacted, HB 2573 would become effective on July 1, 2020.