SLS 15RS-364 **ORIGINAL**

2015 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 34

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BY SENATOR CORTEZ

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

CURRICULA. Requires passage of a test identical to the civics portion of the U.S. Naturalization Test to earn high school credit in Civics. (6/30/15)

AN ACT

2	To enact R.S. 17:274.1(D), relative to required courses of study; to require passage of a
3	certain proficiency test to earn credit in certain Civics courses required for high
4	school graduation; to provide relative to administration of the test; to provide for
5	exceptions; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.
6	Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:
7	Section 1. R.S. 17:274.1(D) is hereby enacted to read as follows:
8	§274.1. Civics and Free Enterprise; required; proficiency test ; exceptions
9	* * *
10	D.(1) The legislature, in recognition of the national Civics Education
11	Initiative's efforts to ensure that every citizen can, at a minimum, demonstrate
12	the same knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of the history,
13	principles, and form of the United States government required of naturalized
14	citizens, hereby provides for the Louisiana Civics Education Initiative.
15	(2) For students who enter the ninth grade on or after July 1, 2015, high
16	school credit shall not be awarded for successfully completing the course work

1 Subsection B of this Section, unless the student correctly answers at least sixty of the one hundred questions listed in a test identical to the civics portion of the 2 naturalization test used by the United States Citizenship and Immigration 3 Services. 4 (3) A student shall be allowed to take the test as many times as necessary 5 6

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- to achieve a passing score.
- (4) The governing authority of each public high school shall determine the method and manner in which to administer the test.
 - (5) Passage of the test shall be documented on the student's transcript.
- (6) A student who is exempted in accordance with the student's individualized educational program pursuant to the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act shall not be required to take or pass the test required by this Subsection.

Section 2. This Act shall become effective on June 30, 2015.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jeanne C. Johnston.

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Cortez

<u>Present law</u>, as a prerequisite to high school graduation, requires students to complete two semesters of instruction in Civics, including a section on Free Enterprise, equal to one unit of credit.

Present law provides that for students who enter the ninth grade on or after July 1, 2014, Government, AP US Government and Politics: Comparative, or AP US Government and Politics: United States may be substituted for Civics and shall satisfy the Civics and Free Enterprise instruction required by present law.

Proposed law retains present law and additionally provides for the Louisiana Civics Education Initiative as follows:

- (1) For students who enter the ninth grade on or after July 1, 2015, credit shall not be awarded for successfully completing the course work required by present law, unless the student correctly answers at least sixty of the one hundred questions listed in a test identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test used by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.
- (2) Students shall be allowed to take the test as many times as necessary to achieve a passing score.
- (3) Public school governing authorities may determine how the test will be administered.

Coding: Words which are struck through are deletions from existing law; words in **boldface type and underscored** are additions.

- (4) Passage of the test shall be noted on the student's transcript.
- (5) Students who are exempted by their individualized education program under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act shall not be required to take and pass the test.

Effective June 30, 2015.

(Adds R.S. 17:274.1(D))