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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-SECOND SESSION

H. F. No. **563**

02/01/2021 Authored by Urdahl, Dettmer and West
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Education Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to education; creating civics test reporting requirements; amending
1.3 Minnesota Statutes 2020, sections 120B.02, subdivision 3; 120B.35, by adding a
1.4 subdivision; 120B.36, subdivision 1.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 120B.02, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

1.7 Subd. 3. **Required knowledge and understanding of civics.** (a) For purposes of this
1.8 subdivision, "civics test questions" means 50 of the 100 questions that, as of January 1,
1.9 2015, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services officers use to select the questions
1.10 they pose to applicants for naturalization so the applicants can demonstrate their knowledge
1.11 and understanding of the fundamentals of United States history and government, as required
1.12 by United States Code, title 8, section 1423. The Learning Law and Democracy Foundation,
1.13 in consultation with Minnesota civics teachers, must select by July 1 each year 50 of the
1.14 100 questions under this paragraph to serve as the state's civics test questions for the
1.15 proximate school year and immediately transmit the 50 selected civics test questions to the
1.16 department and to the Legislative Coordinating Commission, which must post the 50
1.17 questions it receives on the Minnesota's Legacy website by August 1 of that year.

1.18 (b) A student enrolled in a public school must correctly answer at least 30 of the 50
1.19 civics test questions. A school or district may record on a student's transcript that the student
1.20 answered at least 30 of 50 civics test questions correctly. A school or district may exempt
1.21 a student with disabilities from this requirement if the student's individualized education
1.22 program team determines the requirement is inappropriate and establishes an alternative

requirement. A school or district may administer the civics test questions in a language other than English to students who qualify for English learner services.

(c) Schools and districts may administer civics test questions as part of the social studies curriculum. A district must not prevent a student from graduating or deny a student a high school diploma for failing to correctly answer at least 30 of 50 civics test questions.

(d) The commissioner and public schools and school districts must not charge students any fees related to this subdivision.

(e) The results of a civics test administered under this section must not be used for the following purposes:

(1) to assess a student's career and college readiness;

(2) to identify a school or district for improvement under section 120B.11, or under the state plan adopted under the most recent reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act;

(3) to determine a school or district's eligibility for state aid;

(4) as part of a teacher evaluation under section 122A.40, subdivision 8, or 122A.41, subdivision 5, or a principal evaluation under section 123B.147;

(5) to determine grade retention or promotion; or

(6) to determine a student's need for postsecondary remediation.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 120B.35, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 6. **Civics test.** The commissioner must report an aggregate state score based on student performance on the civics test administered under section 120B.02, subdivision 3.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective for the 2021-2022 school year and later.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 120B.36, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **School performance reports and public reporting.** (a) The commissioner shall report:

(1) student academic performance data under section 120B.35, subdivisions 2 and 3;

(2) academic progress consistent with federal expectations;

3.1 (3) school safety and student engagement and connection under section 120B.35,
3.2 subdivision 3, paragraph (d);

3.3 (4) rigorous coursework under section 120B.35, subdivision 3, paragraph (c);

3.4 (5) the percentage of students under section 120B.35, subdivision 3, paragraph (b), clause
3.5 (2), whose progress and performance levels are meeting career and college readiness
3.6 benchmarks under sections 120B.30, subdivision 1, and 120B.35, subdivision 3, paragraph
3.7 (e);

3.8 (6) longitudinal data on the progress of eligible districts in reducing disparities in students'
3.9 academic achievement and realizing racial and economic integration under section 124D.861;

3.10 (7) the acquisition of English, and where practicable, native language academic literacy,
3.11 including oral academic language, and the academic progress of all English learners enrolled
3.12 in a Minnesota public school course or program who are currently or were previously counted
3.13 as English learners under section 124D.59;

3.14 (8) the percentage of students who graduated in the previous school year who correctly
3.15 answered at least 30 of 50 civics test questions in accordance with section 120B.02,
3.16 subdivision 3;

3.17 (9) two separate student-to-teacher ratios that clearly indicate the definition of teacher
3.18 consistent with sections 122A.06 and 122A.15 for purposes of determining these ratios;

3.19 ~~(9)~~ (10) staff characteristics excluding salaries;

3.20 ~~(10)~~ (11) student enrollment demographics;

3.21 ~~(11)~~ (12) foster care status, including all students enrolled in a Minnesota public school
3.22 course or program who are currently or were previously in foster care, student homelessness,
3.23 and district mobility; and

3.24 ~~(12)~~ (13) extracurricular activities.

3.25 (b) The school performance report for a school site and a school district must include
3.26 school performance reporting information and calculate proficiency rates as required by the
3.27 most recently reauthorized Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

3.28 (c) The commissioner shall develop, annually update, and post on the department website
3.29 school performance reports consistent with paragraph (a) and section 120B.11.

3.30 (d) The commissioner must make available performance reports by the beginning of
3.31 each school year.

4.1 (e) A school or district may appeal its results in a form and manner determined by the
4.2 commissioner and consistent with federal law. The commissioner's decision to uphold or
4.3 deny an appeal is final.

4.4 (f) School performance data are nonpublic data under section 13.02, subdivision 9, until
4.5 the commissioner publicly releases the data. The commissioner shall annually post school
4.6 performance reports to the department's public website no later than September 1, except
4.7 that in years when the reports reflect new performance standards, the commissioner shall
4.8 post the school performance reports no later than October 1.

4.9 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.