

By Senator Gruters

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to high school graduation
3 requirements; amending s. 1003.4282, F.S.; revising
4 the required credits for certain students for a
5 standard high school diploma to include one-half
6 credit of instruction in civics and seven and one-
7 half, rather than eight, credits in electives;
8 requiring certain students to correctly answer a
9 minimum number of questions on a test identical to the
10 civics portion of the naturalization test used by the
11 United States Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration
12 Services; providing an effective date.

13
14 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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16 Section 1. Paragraphs (d) and (g) of subsection (3) of
17 section 1003.4282, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

18 1003.4282 Requirements for a standard high school diploma.—

19 (3) STANDARD HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA; COURSE AND ASSESSMENT
20 REQUIREMENTS.—

21 (d) *Three and one-half credits in social studies.*—A student
22 must earn one credit in United States History; one credit in
23 World History; one-half credit in economics, which must include
24 financial literacy; ~~and~~ one-half credit in United States
25 Government; and, beginning with students entering grade 9 in the
26 2019-2020 school year, one-half credit in civics. The United
27 States History EOC assessment constitutes 30 percent of the
28 student's final course grade. Beginning with students entering
29 grade 9 in the 2019-2020 school year, in order to obtain a high

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30 school diploma or its equivalent, a student must also correctly
31 answer at least 60 of the 100 questions listed on a test that is
32 identical to the civics portion of the naturalization test used
33 by the United States Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration
34 Services.

35 (g) ~~Eight~~ *Credits in electives.*—School districts must
36 develop and offer coordinated electives so that a student may
37 develop knowledge and skills in his or her area of interest,
38 such as electives with a STEM or liberal arts focus. Such
39 electives must include opportunities for students to earn
40 college credit, including industry-certified career education
41 programs or series of career-themed courses that result in
42 industry certification or articulate into the award of college
43 credit, or career education courses for which there is a
44 statewide or local articulation agreement and which lead to
45 college credit. A student entering grade 9 before the 2019-2020
46 school year must earn eight credits in electives. A student
47 entering grade 9 in the 2019-2020 school year or thereafter must
48 earn seven and one-half credits in electives.

49 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.