

## **CS/HB 105 — Middle School Civics Education**

by PreK-12 Policy Committee, Representatives McBurney, Hudson, Kelly, and others (CS/SB 1096 by Education Pre-K – 12 Committee and Senators Detert, Sobel, Gaetz, Lynn, and Crist)

### ***Civics Curriculum Requirements***

The bill requires middle school students to complete a one semester civics education course for promotion from middle school, beginning with students entering grade 6 in the 2012-2013 school year. The course must include the roles and responsibilities of federal, state, and local governments; the structures and functions of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government; and the meaning and significance of historic documents, such as the Articles of Confederation, the Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution of the United States. In order to integrate civics education throughout the curriculum, the bill requires that the reading portion of the language arts curriculum must include integration of civics education concepts at all grade levels, beginning with the 2011-2012 school year.

### ***End of Course Assessment***

The bill requires the Commissioner of Education to develop and administer a statewide end-of-course assessment in civics education at the middle school level. The recently revised grade seven content standards emphasize a thorough understanding of civics concepts and would serve as the basis for the end-of-course assessment. The civics assessment would be administered as a field test during the 2012-2013 school year and, during the 2013-2014 school year, would constitute 30 percent of a student's final course grade. Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, a student must earn a passing score on the civics assessment in order to pass the course and receive course credit.

### ***School Grades***

Student results on the end-of-course civics examination would be used in calculating school grades, beginning with the 2013-14 school year.

### ***Short Title***

The act may be cited as the "Justice Sandra Day O'Connor Civics Education Act."

If approved by the Governor, these provisions take effect July 1, 2010.

*Vote: Senate 38-0; House 115-0*