

SB 1038 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Education

Prepared By: Lisa Gezelter, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 4/11, 4/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires high school students to correctly answer at least 60 percent of the questions on the naturalization test required for United States citizenship in order to earn a high school diploma. Applies to high school diplomas awarded on or after July 1, 2018.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Civics education
- Types of questions on test

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Clarifies that students would need to correctly answer at least 60 out of 100 questions on a civics test derived from the questions used for the civics portion of the naturalization test created by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

BACKGROUND:

The naturalization test administered by the United States Department of Homeland Security, Citizenship and Immigration Services consists of an English section and a civics section. The English portion tests English language proficiency, determined by an individual's ability to read, write, speak, and understand English. Test takers are required to respond to spoken instructions, read one sentence aloud, and write one sentence. The civics portion of the test consists of ten questions drawn from a standardized civics test form.