

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

NJSA: 18A:35 (High school curriculum-- require civics)

LAWS OF: 1987 **CHAPTER:** 425

BILL NO: A3141

Sponsor(s): Randall and others

Date Introduced: September 15, 1986

Committee: **Assembly:** Education
Senate: Education

Amended during passage: Yes Amendments during passage denoted by asterisks.

Date of Passage: **Assembly:** May 28, 1987
Senate: December 14, 1987

Date of Approval: January 14, 1988

following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement: Yes

Committee statement: **Assembly** Yes
Senate Yes

Fiscal Note: No

Veto Message: No

Message on Signing: No

Following were printed:

Reports: No

Hearings: No

P. L. 1987, CHAPTER 425, *approved January 14, 1988*

1986 Assembly No. 3141 (*Second Official Copy Reprint*)

AN ACT **[**requiring that the public high school curriculum include a course of **]** *concerning the* study **[in]** *of* civics and supplementing chapter 35 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

1 BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
2 *of New Jersey:*

1 1. **[**Every local board of education shall adopt a one-year course
2 of study in civics to be given to each student during the last four
3 years of high school.**]***

4 The State Department of Education shall prepare curriculum
5 guidelines *for the teaching of civics* which **[shall]**** *may*
6 be used by **[all]**** local school boards in **[fulfilling this]**
7 **[partial fulfillment of the** requirement**]**** *fulfilling the re-*
8 *quirements*** *established pursuant to N. J. S. 18A:35-1 and N. J. S.*
9 *18A:35-2*.*

1 **[**2. The State Board of Education shall promulgate, pursuant
2 to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P. L. 1968, c. 410 (C.
3 52:14B-1 et seq.) such rules and regulations as may be necessary
4 to effectuate the purposes of this act.**]***

1 **[**3.**]** *2.* This act shall take effect **[**on September 1 next
2 following enactment**]*** *immediately*.*

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter printed in italics thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in asterisks or stars has been adopted as follows:

*—Assembly committee amendments adopted January 8, 1987.

**—Senate committee amendments adopted December 7, 1987.

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ASSEMBLY, No. 3141

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 15, 1966

By Assemblywoman RANDALL, Assemblymen NAPLES, Doria, Mazur, Felice and Genova

AN ACT requiring that the public high school curriculum include a course of study in civics and supplementing chapter 35 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

1 BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
2 *of New Jersey:*

1 1. Every local board of education shall adopt a one-year course
2 of study in civics to be given to each student during the last four
3 years of high school.

4 The State Department of Education shall prepare curriculum
5 guidelines which shall be used by all local school boards in fulfill-
6 ing this requirement.

1 2. The State Board of Education shall promulgate, pursuant to
2 the "Administrative Procedure Act," P. L. 1968, c. 410 (C. 52:14B-1
3 et seq.) such rules and regulations as may be necessary to effectuate
4 the purposes of this act.

1 3. This act shall take effect on September 1 next following en-
2 actment.

STATEMENT

This bill requires local boards of education to include a one-year course in civics in the public high school curriculum. Civics is a social science which deals with the functions of government and the rights and duties of citizens in a democratic society. It is the sponsor's belief that a required course in civics in high school would help make young people better informed about public issues and better able to assume responsibility as the voters and leaders of tomorrow.

EDUCATION—GENERAL

Requires that the public high school curriculum include a course in civics.

LAW OFFICES OF
B. J. BENTLEY

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 3141

with Assembly committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 8, 1987

The Assembly Education Committee favorably reports this bill as amended.

As amended, this bill requires that the Department of Education prepare curriculum guidelines for the teaching of civics to high school students. Local districts will use these guidelines as part of the two-year high school United States history requirement required by statute (N. J. S. 18A:35-1 and N. J. S. 18A:35-2).

Current law also requires a course in "community civics, the geography, history and civics of New Jersey, and the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship . . ." in elementary school (N. J. S. 18A:35-3).

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SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 3141

[OFFICIAL COPY REPRINT]

with Senate committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 7, 1987

The Senate Education Committee favorably reports Assembly Bill No. 3141 OCR with Senate committee amendments.

As amended, this bill requires the Department of Education to prepare curriculum guidelines which could be used by local districts for the teaching of civics to high school students as part of the two year high school course in United States history.

BACKGROUND:

P. L. 1987, c. 52 (Assembly Bill No. 649 of this session) which was signed into law on February 25, 1987, requires the inclusion of New Jersey history in the two-year history sequence.

Current law also requires a course in "community civics, the geography, history and civics of New Jersey, and the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship . . ." in elementary school (N. J. S. 18A :35-3).

The committee amended the bill to make the use of the Department of Education's curriculum guidelines by local boards of education optional, thus giving local districts more flexibility in preparing their civics education program.