

By: Ashby

H.B. No. 1776

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the United States history end-of-course assessment  
3 instrument for public high school students.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Section 39.023(c), Education Code, is amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (c) The agency shall also adopt end-of-course assessment  
8 instruments for secondary-level courses in Algebra I, biology,  
9 English I, English II, ~~and United States history~~. The Algebra I  
10 end-of-course assessment instrument must be administered with the  
11 aid of technology. The English I and English II end-of-course  
12 assessment instruments must each assess essential knowledge and  
13 skills in both reading and writing in the same assessment  
14 instrument and must provide a single score. A school district shall  
15 comply with State Board of Education rules regarding administration  
16 of the assessment instruments listed in this subsection. If a  
17 student is in a special education program under Subchapter A,  
18 Chapter 29, the student's admission, review, and dismissal  
19 committee shall determine whether any allowable modification is  
20 necessary in administering to the student an assessment instrument  
21 required under this subsection. The State Board of Education shall  
22 administer the assessment instruments. The State Board of Education  
23 shall adopt a schedule for the administration of end-of-course  
24 assessment instruments that complies with the requirements of

1 Subsection (c-3).

2 SECTION 2. Section 39, Education Code is amended by adding  
3 Sec. 39.02302 to read as follows:

4 Section 39.02302 U.S. History Assessment (a) Beginning with  
5 students entering the 9th grade in the 2018-2019 school year, each  
6 student shall be required to take the civics test administered by  
7 the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services as part of  
8 the naturalization process under the federal Immigration and  
9 Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. Section 1101 et seq.). The test shall be  
10 administered in accordance with rules adopted by a district board  
11 of trustees, the commissioner, and as follows:

12 (1) On a computer in a multiple choice format, and

13 (2) In the presence of a teacher, aide, proctor, or  
14 campus testing coordinator, and

15 (3) At any time during the school year when the  
16 instructor or counselor determines the student to be ready.

17 (b) A student who has entered the 9th grade prior to the  
18 2018-2019 may elect to take the test in accordance with this  
19 section in lieu of the test required in Section 39.023(c).

20 (c) As a condition of graduation, a student must answer at  
21 least 70% of the questions correctly.

22 (d) If a student is in a special education program under  
23 Subchapter A, Chapter 29, the student's admission, review, and  
24 dismissal committee shall determine whether any allowable  
25 modification is necessary in administering this assessment  
26 instrument to appropriately measure a student's achievement on this  
27 test.

1       (e) An individual graduation committee may waive the  
2 requirement in this section for a student in a special education  
3 program under Subchapter A, Chapter 29, for whom this assessment  
4 instrument, even with allowable accommodations, would not provide  
5 an appropriate measure of student achievement, as determined by  
6 the student's admission, review, and dismissal committee.

7       (f) The commissioner shall adopt rules requiring a school  
8 district to provide a student in the foundation high school program  
9 under Section 28.025 with the opportunity to be administered the  
10 test in this section. A rule may not:

11               (1) Restrict the grade level at which a student may  
12 take this test; or

13               (2) Limit the number of attempts a student may take to  
14 perform satisfactorily on the test.

15       (g) A school district shall annually certify to the  
16 commissioner the results of each student who takes this assessment.

17       SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with students who  
18 enter the ninth grade during the 2018-2019 school year.

19       SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
20 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
21 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
22 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
23 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.