

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-third Legislature
Second Regular Session
2018

HOUSE BILL 2561

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 15, CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE 3, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY
ADDING SECTION 15-259; RELATING TO THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC
INSTRUCTION.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Title 15, chapter 2, article 3, Arizona Revised
3 Statutes, is amended by adding section 15-259, to read:

4 15-259. State seal of civics literacy program; requirements;
5 diploma; program termination

6 A. THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION SHALL ESTABLISH A STATE
7 SEAL OF CIVICS LITERACY PROGRAM TO RECOGNIZE STUDENTS WHO GRADUATE FROM A
8 SCHOOL OPERATED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR A CHARTER SCHOOL LOCATED IN THIS
9 STATE AND WHO HAVE ATTAINED A HIGH LEVEL OF PROFICIENCY IN CIVICS.

10 B. THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION SHALL:

11 1. CREATE A STATE SEAL OF CIVICS LITERACY THAT SHALL BE AFFIXED TO
12 THE DIPLOMA AND NOTED ON THE TRANSCRIPT OF A STUDENT TO RECOGNIZE THAT THE
13 STUDENT HAS MET THE REQUIREMENTS PRESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION.

14 2. DELIVER THE STATE SEAL OF CIVICS LITERACY TO EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL
15 DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL THAT PARTICIPATES IN THE PROGRAM.

16 C. ANY SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL MAY VOLUNTARILY
17 PARTICIPATE IN THE STATE SEAL OF CIVICS LITERACY PROGRAM BY NOTIFYING THE
18 SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S OR CHARTER
19 SCHOOL'S INTENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM.

20 D. EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD OR CHARTER SCHOOL GOVERNING
21 BODY THAT PARTICIPATES IN THE STATE SEAL OF CIVICS LITERACY PROGRAM SHALL:

22 1. IDENTIFY THE STUDENTS WHO HAVE MET THE REQUIREMENTS TO BE
23 AWARDED THE STATE SEAL OF CIVICS LITERACY.

24 2. AFFIX THE STATE SEAL OF CIVICS LITERACY TO THE DIPLOMA AND NOTE
25 THE RECEIPT OF THE STATE SEAL OF CIVICS LITERACY ON THE TRANSCRIPT OF EACH
26 STUDENT WHO MEETS THOSE REQUIREMENTS.

27 E. IN ADDITION TO THE SOCIAL STUDIES GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
28 PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 15-701.01, THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, IN
29 COLLABORATION WITH THE SCHOOL OF CIVIC AND ECONOMIC THOUGHT AND LEADERSHIP
30 AT ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY AND OTHER EXPERTS ON FUNDAMENTAL CIVIC
31 KNOWLEDGE AND CIVIC LITERACY AT UNIVERSITIES IN THIS STATE, SHALL ADOPT A
32 LIST OF ASSESSMENTS USING RESEARCHED-BASED METHODOLOGY TO DETERMINE A
33 STUDENT'S PROFICIENCY IN CIVICS AND MAY ADOPT RULES AS NECESSARY TO CARRY
34 OUT THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION.

35 F. A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CHARTER SCHOOL THAT PARTICIPATES IN THE
36 STATE SEAL OF CIVICS LITERACY PROGRAM ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION
37 SHALL AWARD A STUDENT, ON GRADUATION FROM HIGH SCHOOL, A HIGH SCHOOL
38 DIPLOMA WITH A STATE SEAL OF CIVICS LITERACY IF THE STUDENT MEETS BOTH OF
39 THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

40 1. SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES ALL SOCIAL STUDIES REQUIREMENTS FOR
41 GRADUATION WITH AN OVERALL GRADE POINT AVERAGE IN THOSE CLASSES OF 3.0 OR
42 HIGHER ON A 4.0 SCALE, OR THE EQUIVALENT.

43 2. DEMONSTRATES PROFICIENCY IN CIVICS BY MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS
44 ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION E OF THIS SECTION.

45 G. THE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION ENDS ON JULY 1,
46 2028 PURSUANT TO SECTION 41-3102.