

By: Senator(s) Rhodes, Williams, Berry,
Robinson, McLendon

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2676

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE DEMONSTRATION OF PROFICIENCY IN CIVICS
2 AS A CONDITION OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION BY REQUIRING STUDENTS TO
3 TAKE A CIVICS COURSE THAT DEMONSTRATES KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING
4 OF THE FUNDAMENTALS OF THE HISTORY, PRINCIPLES AND FORM OF
5 GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES; TO REQUIRE THE UNITED STATES
6 HISTORY CURRICULUM TO INCLUDE HISTORICAL KNOWLEDGE BEGINNING WITH
7 THE SETTLEMENT OF JAMESTOWN, VIRGINIA, IN 1607; TO AMEND SECTION
8 37-16-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, IN CONFORMITY; AND FOR RELATED
9 PURPOSES.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

11 **SECTION 1. High school graduation requirement; civics**

12 **course.** (1) For purposes of this section, "civics course" means
13 a course promulgated by the Mississippi Department of Education
14 that must demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the
15 fundamentals of the history, principles and form of government of
16 the United States.

17 (2) The State Board of Education shall provide that the
18 requirements of this section shall be incorporated into the United
19 States History curriculum required for high school students.
20 Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, the United States
21 History curriculum shall include historical knowledge regarding



22 the United States of America from the settlement of Jamestown,
23 Virginia, in 1607 to the present.

24 (3) This section is applicable to any student who graduates
25 from high school during or after the 2024-2025 school year.

26 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-16-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
27 amended as follows:

28 37-16-7. (1) Each district school board shall establish
29 standards for graduation from its schools which shall include as a
30 minimum:

31 (a) Mastery of minimum academic skills as measured by
32 assessments developed and administered by the State Board of
33 Education.

34 (b) Completion of a minimum number of academic credits,
35 and all other applicable requirements prescribed by the district
36 school board.

37 (c) Demonstration of proficiency in civics and United
38 States History as prescribed in Section 1 of this act.

39 (* * *d) By school, information on high school
40 graduation rates. High schools with graduation rates lower than
41 eighty percent (80%) must submit a detailed plan to the
42 Mississippi Department of Education to restructure the high school
43 experience to improve graduation rates.

44 (2) A student who meets all requirements prescribed in
45 subsection (1) of this section shall be awarded a standard diploma
46 in a form prescribed by the State Board of Education.



47 (3) The State Board of Education may establish student
48 proficiency standards for promotion to grade levels leading to
49 graduation.

50 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
51 and after July 1, 2024.

