

**Adopted
AMENDMENT NO 1 PROPOSED TO**

Cmte Sub for Senate Bill No. 2605

BY: Senator(s) Wiggins

**Amend by striking all after the enacting clause and inserting
in lieu thereof the following:**

11 **SECTION 1.** The following shall be codified as Section
12 37-13-56, Mississippi Code of 1972:

13 37-13-56. (1) For purposes of this section, "civics" means
14 a nonpartisan educational program that promotes:

15 (a) The acquisition of knowledge of the history,
16 heritage, civic life and civic institutions of the United States
17 of America and the State of Mississippi;

18 (b) The acquisition of skills such as the ability to
19 analyze texts and determine the reliability of sources; and



20 (c) An understanding of the ways in which civic
21 institutions operate and how individuals may be involved in civic
22 life.

23 (2) Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, every public and
24 charter school within the state shall be required to teach
25 standalone civics courses as part of the required curriculum for
26 high school graduation. Training for the teaching of these civics
27 courses shall be conducted during the summer of 2026. Each school
28 shall require students to complete regular courses of instruction
29 in the factually accurate history of the United States, in civics,
30 in the Constitution of the United States and in the government of
31 the State of Mississippi starting in the eighth grade and before
32 students complete twelfth grade. The courses shall focus on
33 fostering and perpetuating the ideals, principles and spirit of
34 political and economic democracy in the United States of America
35 and increasing the knowledge of the organization of the government
36 of the United States and of the State of Mississippi. The courses
37 shall have an emphasis on the study of federalism, the separation
38 of powers, the checks and balances throughout the government, the
39 Bill of Rights, and appreciation for free speech and civil
40 discourse, using historical references, congressional and public
41 debates, including current public policy issues.

42 (3) The State Department of Education, using rigorous and
43 relevant resources, shall prescribe the courses of study,
44 including the basic course requirements and the academic standards



45 for these courses, and shall update course standards to align with
46 current civics scholarship. The department shall rename its
47 United States Government courses as "United States Government and
48 Civics" to account for the additional civics component while
49 maintaining the government component.

50 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
51 and after July 1, 2025.

**Further, amend by striking the title in its entirety and
inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

1 AN ACT TO CREATE NEW SECTION 37-13-56, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
2 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT, BEGINNING IN THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR,
3 EVERY PUBLIC AND CHARTER SCHOOL WITHIN THE STATE SHALL TEACH
4 CIVICS COURSES STARTING IN THE EIGHTH GRADE AND BEFORE THE
5 COMPLETION OF TWELFTH GRADE; TO PROVIDE THE AIM AND CONTENT OF
6 SUCH COURSES; TO PROVIDE THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
7 SHALL PRESCRIBE THE COURSE OF STUDY AND SHALL UPDATE COURSE
8 STANDARDS TO ALIGN WITH CURRENT CIVICS SCHOLARSHIP; AND FOR
9 RELATED PURPOSES.

