

**CHAPTER 107**  
**SB 45 - FINAL VERSION**

02/23/2017 0495s  
4May2017... 1447h

2017 SESSION

17-0766  
04/03

SENATE BILL            **45**

AN ACT                requiring a course in civics for high school graduation.

SPONSORS:            Sen. D'Allesandro, Dist 20; Sen. Watters, Dist 4; Sen. Bradley, Dist 3; Rep. P. Long, Hills. 10

COMMITTEE:          Education

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AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill provides that a civics course shall be required for high school graduation.

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Explanation:          Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.  
                         Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struck through.]~~  
                         Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Seventeen*

AN ACT                    requiring a course in civics for high school graduation.

*Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

1            107:1 Instruction in National and State History and Government; Civics Instruction. Amend  
2 RSA 189:11 to read as follows:

3            189:11 Instruction in National and State History and Government.

4            I. In all public and private schools in the state there shall be given regular courses of  
5 instruction in the history, government and constitutions of the United States and New Hampshire,  
6 including the organization and operation of New Hampshire municipal, county and state  
7 government and of the federal government. Such instruction shall begin not later than the  
8 [opening] **beginning** of the eighth grade and shall continue in **all** high [school] **schools** as [an  
9 identifiable] **a** component of a [year's] **one credit** course **of instruction required for high school**  
10 **graduation** in [the history and government of the] United States and New Hampshire **history**  
11 **and a one-half credit course of instruction required for high school graduation in United**  
12 **States and New Hampshire government/civics. A school district shall develop and offer**  
13 **the United States and New Hampshire government/civics course and at a minimum, the**  
14 **course shall include instruction in the following areas:**

15                    (a) **Opportunities and responsibilities for civic involvement.**

16                    (b) **Skills to effectively participate in civic affairs.**

17                    (c) **The U.S. Constitution and the principles stated in the Articles and**  
18 **Amendments of the U.S. Constitution that provide the foundation for the democratic**  
19 **government of the United States.**

20                    (d) **The New Hampshire constitution and the principles stated in the articles of**  
21 **the New Hampshire constitution that provide the foundation for the democratic**  
22 **government of New Hampshire.**

23                    (e) **The structure and functions of the 3 branches comprising federal and state**  
24 **governments: legislative, judicial, and executive.**

25                    (f) **The role, opportunities, and responsibilities of a citizen to engage in civic**  
26 **activity.**

27                    (g) **The role and interactions of the state of New Hampshire and local**  
28 **governments within the framework of the U.S. Constitution and of extended powers and**  
29 **functions provided to local governments.**

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1           ***(h) How federal, state, and local governments address problems and issues by***  
2           ***making decisions, creating laws, enforcing regulations, and taking action.***

3           ***(i) The role and actions of government in the flow of economic activity and the***  
4           ***regulation of monetary policy.***

5           II. As a component of instruction under paragraph I, a locally developed competency  
6           assessment of United States government and civics that includes, but is not limited to, the nature,  
7           purpose, structure, function, and history of the United States government, the rights and  
8           responsibilities of citizens, and noteworthy government and civic leaders, shall be administered to  
9           students as part of the high school course in history and government of the United States and New  
10          Hampshire. Students who attain a passing grade on the competency assessment shall be eligible for  
11          a certificate issued by the school district. The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services  
12          (USCIS) test may be used to satisfy the requirement of this paragraph.

107:2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

Approved: June 08, 2017

Effective Date: August 07, 2017