

Introduced to Ought to Pass -- requiring students in the university and community college systems of New Hampshire to pass the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services civics naturalization test, take a course that covers fundamental American documents as part of the general education curriculum, or pass a civics course competency test.

~~HB 112-FN - AS INTRODUCED AMENDED SESSION BY 25-0048 THE 05/02 HOUSE BILL 7Jan2026... 112-FN AN ACT requiring students in the university and community college systems of New Hampshire to pass the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services civics naturalization test.~~

Education Funding ?? AMENDED ANALYSIS This bill requires ~~university students system in the university~~ and community college ~~system systems students, of as New Hampshire requirement for graduation,~~ to pass the ~~2020 version of the~~ United States Citizenship and Immigration Services civics naturalization test, take a course that covers fundamental American documents as part of the general education curriculum, or pass a civics course competency test.

3095h 25-0048 05/02 STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Five AN ACT requiring students in the university and community college systems of New Hampshire to pass the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services civics naturalization test, take a course that covers fundamental American documents as part of the general education curriculum, or pass a civics course competency test.

Every undergraduate student admitted or transferring to an institution in the university system of New Hampshire on or after July 1, 2027, shall, as a requirement for graduation, and in addition to any other baccalaureate degree graduation requirements:

or (b) Successfully complete a civics course that covers fundamental American documents as part of the general education curriculum, or pass said civics course competency test.

~~Every I. student admitted or transferring to an institution in the community college system of New Hampshire on or after January 1, 2026 shall, as a requirement for graduation and in addition to any other degree graduation requirements, show proof of having passed the 128 question 2020 version of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services naturalization test with a score of 70 or better, or shall be required take and pass such test with a score of 70 or greater.~~

or (b) Successfully complete a civics course that covers fundamental American documents as part of the general education curriculum, or pass said civics course competency test.

Community college system of New Hampshire institutions shall establish procedures to administer, certify, and record results of this assessment for students needing to satisfy this HB 112-FN - AS

AMENDED BY THE HOUSE - Page 2 - requirement.

Exchange students, foreign nationals, military personnel on full-time active duty or part-time service, or a veteran pursuant to RSA 110-D:3, II or XX shall be exempt from this section.

This act shall take effect on ~~January~~ July 1, ~~2026~~-2027.

LBA 25-0048 ~~Revised~~ 1/26/26 ~~2/20/25~~ HB 112-FN- FISCAL NOTE AS ~~INTRODUCED~~ AMENDED BY THE HOUSE (AMENDMENT #2025-3095h) AN ACT requiring students in the university and community college systems of New Hampshire to pass the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services civics naturalization test, take a course that covers fundamental American documents as part of the general education curriculum, or pass a civics course competency test.

~~This~~ Estimated State Impact FY 2026 FY 2027 FY 2028 FY 2029 Revenue \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0 Revenue Fund(s) None USNH - Indeterminable Increase Expenditures* \$0 (\$100K - \$500K Per Year) CCSNH - Indeterminable Increase Funding Source(s) USNH and CCSNH Operating Expenses Appropriations* \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0 Funding Source(s) None *Expenditure = Cost of bill ~~does~~ *Appropriation ~~not~~ = ~~provide~~ Authorized funding, funding to cover cost of bill METHODOLOGY:

~~Estimated~~ This State bill Impact adds FY a 2025 graduation FY requirement 2026 for FY students 2027 in FY the 2028 University Revenue System \$0 of \$0 New \$0 Hampshire \$0 (USNH) Revenue and Fund(s) the None Community USNH College -System Approximately of \$100,000 New -Hampshire \$500,000 (CCSNH). Annually beginning Expenditures* July \$01, CCSNH 2027, -requiring Approximately demonstration \$100,000 of -basic \$500,000 civics Annually knowledge Total either -through Approximately passage \$200,000 of -a \$1,000,000 federal Annually civics Funding naturalization Source(s) test USNH or and completion CCSNH Operating Funds Appropriations* \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0 Funding Source(s) None *Expenditure - Cost of bill a *Appropriation civics -course Authorized on funding foundational to American cover documents, cost with of specified bill exemptions. METHODOLOGY:

~~This~~ Both bill USNH requires students in University System of New Hampshire (USNH) and Community CCSNH College have System provided of information New related Hampshire (CCSNH) to pass this the bill's United potential States fiscal Citizenship impact: and Immigration Services civics naturalization test.

University System of New Hampshire (USNH) The University System of New Hampshire states (USNH) that has compliance provided with the this following bill assumptions is related expected to increase this USNH bill: operating expense by an indeterminable amount, ranging from \$100,000 to \$500,000 annually, and has provided the following information:

2? Given Absent passage of the potential naturalization adverse test reputational with factor a score of withholding 70 degree percent conferral or for better otherwise or qualified successful baccalaureate completion graduates of and the general potential education adverse civics impact course on covering graduation fundamental rates, American USNH documents institutions or would passage take of a said proactive civics approach course with competency students test, to baccalaureate ensure degree that conferral the to naturalization students test who requirement have would satisfied not all deter other successful academic requirements for degree completion completion and who have paid all related tuition, fee, and other attendance costs would be prohibited.

This? would Given include the such potential efforts adverse as reputational monitoring factor testing of records, withholding outreach degree to conferral enrolled for NH otherwise public qualified high baccalaureate school graduates who and did not provide proof of having satisfied the requirement potential at adverse the impact secondary on level, graduation outreach rates, to USNH more institutions than 2,100 students annually who would be required to take the test aggressive, (expected proactive approach to intensify ensure around that graduation time frames which occur at various points throughout the academic test year), requirement and would remediation not guidance deter for successful students degree who completion. fail to pass the test.

Assuming? all USNH testing, students record-keeping, who and provide initial/routine proof student of communications having would passed occur the electronically, naturalization and test assuming with students a could score re-take of the 70 test percent without or limitation better on to their satisfy own, a administrative NH oversight public and secondary individualized school student or outreach NH could community be college performed requirement by would the be equivalent deemed of to one have (1) met additional the full-time requirement staff for systemwide USNH (estimated baccalaureate \$130,000 degree annual conferral. salary/benefits).

2? Costs Approximately would half be of incurred the for 4,200 testing USNH platform baccalaureate procurement, graduates initial annually integration are without-of-state USNH students enterprise who platforms, would and be ongoing required licensure to and satisfy maintenance, the naturalization test or civics course/test requirement.

Procurement Enrolled costs NH might residents be who mitigated are by non-public the secondary adoption school of graduates the would platform also as be configured required by to pass one of the NH tests Department prior of to Education degree conferral.

2 There Given would the be critical no value limitation of on graduation the rates number in of a attempts fiercely or competitive the post secondary time environment, frame particularly in among which New England prospective states, USNH there baccalaureate is graduate potential could for take additional either

~~costs test. should enough students fail to take/pass the naturalization test such that it impacts graduation rates.~~

~~In this Naturalization scenario, test it administration is would conceivable that the testing requirement could be incorporated conducted into electronically. general education requirements with courses taught by adjunct faculty with learning outcomes designed expressly for test passage.~~

~~Community This College would System involve of platform New acquisition Hampshire (CCSNH) The Community College System of New Hampshire (CCSNH) states the experience of implementing this requirement at the secondary school level suggests significant complexity in planning, implementation and ongoing management licensing, to interfacing ensure with compliance, each however institution's anticipates learning the management fiscal and impact student to information be systems, between \$100,000 and \$500,000 ongoing annually, technical support.~~

~~Costs All would testing, record-keeping, incurred in the procurement, integration and maintenance student of communications an online testing format, and CCSNH remediation expects guidance it would see occur increased electronically. expenses associated expected workloads, including a new position to be responsible for implementation, ongoing administration and compliance.~~

~~Based on USNH information institutions, provided none to CCSNH from the New Hampshire Department of Education which (Department), currently there require Department's current vendor for the test estimated a cost civics of course approximately covering \$100,000 fundamental (beyond American the documents, costs could assumed develop/require in such the \$100,000-\$500,000 figure above) to develop a feature course to in document lieu student completion of the naturalization test while requirement in or high as school; an additional option.~~

~~after Whereas the academic first program year/development, development those occurs costs autonomously would by be each rolled institution into (institutional the autonomy contract, established in RSA 187- A:16, this could conceivably involve three curricular development processes.~~

~~Ultimately, Developing this a bill's single precise course impact to on be offered collectively could mitigate curricular development effort but would likely require additional effort to achieve approval of each system institution's is faculty indeterminable. senate.~~

~~This Course bill delivery does modality not (online provide or funding on site) that could potentially mitigate some delivery expense is also at the discretion of each institution.~~

~~? General education requirements are determined autonomously by each institution.~~

~~The formulation of general education credits toward degree completion involves an extensive, re-iterative committee review process involving faculty and staff.~~

~~Adding a new mandatory course within a complex balance of general education course options (that differ by institution) would alter the curricular composition and necessitate a full general education review process at each institution.~~

~~The configuration and approval flow of a general education program generally takes one to two years, as faculty/staff also perform their regular duties.~~

~~It is possible that the process could be expedited with additional resources to support this option for timely compliance.~~

~~? For either test option, staff oversight would be needed to proactively facilitate and ensure statutory compliance prior to degree conferral and to provide remediation guidance to students who do not achieve the graduation requirement.~~

~~USNH states that implementing this bill is expected to increase USNH operating expense in an indeterminable amount, ranging from \$100,000 to \$500,000 annually.~~

~~The decision to adopt the naturalization test or the civics course/test requirement, or to offer both, would be determined on an institutional basis.~~

~~The extent to which test/course administration, record-keeping, and outreach and remediation processes occurred electronically and the extent to which the development and delivery of a required course covering fundamental American documents occurred independently or collectively across the three USNH institutions would determine the additional resources necessary for statutory compliance.~~

~~Additional expenses would be incurred for technical support.~~

~~The graduation requirement would take effect in FY 2028 with preparatory work beginning in FY 2027 (or sooner, upon bill passage).~~

~~USNH anticipates that the expense increase would necessitate increases in USNH tuition and/or mandatory fee rates and/or a reduction in student financial aid from institutional resources.~~

~~Community College System of New Hampshire (CCSNH) The Community College System of New Hampshire (CCSNH) has provided the following assumptions related to this bill:~~

~~? The inclusion of the word "degree" in RSA 188-F:6-b, I, means this statute would apply only to students in academic (credit-bearing) degree programs, although clarification may be needed.~~

~~? Students graduating from a NH high school from 2026 onwards are required under RSA 189:11, II(b) to have passed the test with the same percentage of correct answers as this bill requires.~~

o Completion of the test in high school fulfills this requirement.

o Compliance with this bill requires students to "show proof" of having passed the test but also requires CCSNH to administer, certify and record results of the assessment for students needing to fulfill the requirement.

CCSNH assumes that it would be allowed to record all graduates from a New Hampshire "public, chartered public, non-public school, or a privately incorporated school that serves as a public school in the state" (from above statutory reference) who graduated after 2026 as having satisfied the requirement without needing a different form of proof from every individual student.

? If not, CCSNH would need to develop another mechanism for students to show prior completion, which would result in higher costs and/or workload, or require the students to take the test while enrolled with CCSNH.

It is CCSNH's understanding that completion of the test does not appear on a student's transcript.

? CCSNH would need to identify and record the students who are exempt from the requirement (exchange students, foreign nationals, military personnel on full-time active duty or part-time service, or a veteran pursuant to RSA 110-D:3, II or XX).

This is likely to be a manual process.

Some veterans self-identify and are assigned a code identifying their veteran status and some do not.

The other exempted groups would have to provide evidence of their exempt status so they could be coded by CCSNH as exempt.

? Students could also meet the requirement by successfully completing a civics course that covers fundamental American documents as part of a general education curriculum.

Students would need to show they have met the requirement in this manner and be coded by CCSNH as exempt.

? CCSNH has built the test in its learning management system (Canvas) and would need to update it annually.

? CCSNH would run periodic reports throughout each semester and communicate with students who have not met the requirement, as graduation approaches.

? CCSNH would need to address any issues related to withholding degrees from non-completers who have otherwise fulfilled their program requirements.

? CCSNH needs to explore whether there are any accreditation issues resulting from the inclusion of this test as a graduation requirement.

For purposes of this fiscal impact estimation, it is assumed there are not.

CCSNH states that, in part, this bill puts the burden of compliance on students for whom meeting its requirements will be a condition of graduation.

The bill also creates responsibilities for CCSNH to "establish procedures to administer, certify, and record results of this assessment for students needing to satisfy this requirement." CCSNH would also need to manage the process to identify and record exemptions.

Using the assumptions outlined above, CCSNH states that this bill would increase workload for registrars at the seven community colleges and for information technology staff to code, record, monitor and manage the process for students both exempt from the requirement or needing to fulfill it.

Depending on the validity of the assumptions above, CCSNH may need to work with the Department of Education's (NHDOE) third-party testing vendor to create a data interface, which would also require an external expenditure.

CCSNH would structure compliance in the most efficient way possible, while helping students meet the requirement and graduate.

CCSNH states that increase in workload would increase costs, either in compensated hours, additional staff, and/or outsourcing. If, to manage workload, CCSNH needed records from the NHDOE to verify individual student completion, it anticipates that the Department's vendor would charge for that work.

CCSNH states that when this possibility was explored in 2025, the estimate from the vendor was \$100,000 to develop the interface, with subsequent costs rolled into the contract and charged to CCSNH.

CCSNH states it cannot calculate the fiscal impact with any precision since it includes increases in workload associated with implementation, management and compliance.

CCSNH notes that the NHDOE outsources these functions at considerable cost, given the complexity of statewide administration.

CCSNH cannot state whether it would need to fund additional personnel time or in what amount.

Ultimately, CCSNH states this bill's impact is indeterminable.