

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2023 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 2494

By Delegate Pinson

[Introduced January 11, 2023; Referred to the
Committee on Education]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,
2 designated §18-3-14, relating to requiring that students in high school are required to pass
3 a test on the United States Constitution in order to graduate from high school; providing
4 that the State Board of Education shall create the test; providing that the test require a high
5 passage rate; providing a mechanism for students to re-take the test if necessary; and
6 providing for an effective date.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 3. STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.

§18-3-14. Test on United States Constitution required to graduate high school.

1 (a) In order to be eligible for graduation from high school in West Virginia, a student must
2 satisfactorily pass a test or tests on the provisions and principles of the United States Constitution
3 at some time during grades nine through twelve.

4 (b) The contents of the test shall be created by the State Board of Education and
5 administered to local county boards of education for distribution to students across West Virginia.

6 (c) The test on the United States Constitution shall provide for a rigorous understanding of
7 the document, shall require a high passing grade (85 percent or better), and the contents of the
8 test shall be available to the public for review.

9 (d) High school students who unsuccessfully take the test shall be eligible to re-take the
10 test a week after their first attempt and shall thereafter be provided the opportunity to take the test
11 until they have reached the necessary threshold for passage. The ultimate goal of the test is to
12 provide that graduating seniors have an acute knowledge of the contents of the United States
13 Constitution.

14 (e) This section shall become effective on July 1, 2023.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require each high school student to pass a test on the United States Constitution as a requirement to graduation from high school.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.