

**First Regular Session
Seventy-Seventh General Assembly
STATE OF SAN ANDREAS**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 26-0723.01 Payton Gibson x2365

HOUSE BILL 26-018

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Robertson, Kent

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Gonzales, Hurst, Jenkins

House Committees

Not assigned

Senate Committees

Not assigned

A BILL FOR AN ACT

**CONCERNING THE STUDY OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION AS A GRADUATION
REQUIREMENT FOR COMPULSORY EDUCATION.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <https://saleg.uscgov.com>)

This bill requires public high schools to provide instruction on the Constitution of the State of San Andreas beginning in the 2026–2027 academic year. The bill is intended to strengthen civic education by ensuring that students graduate with an understanding of state government structure, constitutional principles, and mechanisms of civic participation unique to the state.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

Under the bill, school districts may satisfy the requirement by offering a standalone course on state government or by incorporating the required material into an existing civics or social studies course. Instruction must include the structure and functions of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of state government, the legislative process within the General Assembly, and the rights and responsibilities of citizens under the state constitution.

The legislation also requires instruction on direct democracy mechanisms established by the state constitution, including initiative, referendum, recall, and citizen veto, as well as the relationship between state and federal authority. Completion of the required instruction becomes a graduation requirement for students entering ninth grade during or after the 2026–2027 academic year.

The Department of Education is directed to develop model curriculum standards and implementation guidance while allowing school districts flexibility in how instruction is delivered.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of San*
2 *Andreas:*
3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.** This bill shall be known and cited
4 as the “San Andreas Civics Education Act.” **SECTION 2.**
5 **LEGISLATIVE DECLARATION.** (a) The General Assembly
6 finds and declares that: (I) A well-informed citizenry is essential
7 to the effective functioning of a constitutional system of
8 government; (II) Students should graduate from public schools
9 with a working understanding of the structure, powers, and
10 limitations of state government; (III) The Constitution of the State
11 of San Andreas establishes unique mechanisms of direct
12 democracy, including initiative, referendum, recall, and citizen
13 veto, which require informed public participation; (IV) Civic
14 education strengthens democratic participation, public
15 accountability, and respect for constitutional institutions; (V) It is
16 the intent of the General Assembly to ensure that all students

1 receive instruction regarding the San Andreas Constitution and
2 the operation of state government prior to graduation. **SECTION**
3 **3. DEFINITIONS.** For purposes of this Act, unless the context
4 otherwise requires: (a) “Department” means the Department of
5 Education. (b) “Public school” means any public secondary
6 school serving grades nine through twelve within the state. (c)
7 “Civics instruction” means coursework or instructional units
8 addressing government structure, constitutional principles, and
9 civic participation. **SECTION 4. REQUIRED INSTRUCTION.**
10 (a) Beginning with the 2026–2027 academic year, each public
11 high school shall provide instruction on the Constitution of the
12 State of San Andreas. (b) School districts may satisfy this
13 requirement by: (I) Offering a standalone course on state
14 government or constitutional civics; or (II) Incorporating required
15 content into an existing civics, government, or social studies
16 course. (c) Completion of instruction required under this section
17 shall be a condition for graduation for students entering ninth
18 grade during or after the 2026–2027 academic year. **SECTION 5.**
19 **REQUIRED SUBJECT MATTER.** Instruction required under this
20 Act shall include, at minimum: (a) The structure and powers of
21 the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of the State of San
22 Andreas; (b) The role and responsibilities of state constitutional
23 officers; (c) The legislative process within the General Assembly;
24 (d) Direct democracy mechanisms established by the state
25 constitution, including: (I) Initiative; (II) Referendum; (III)
26 Recall; and (IV) Citizen veto; (e) The rights and responsibilities
27 of citizens under the state constitution; and (f) The relationship
28 between state and federal government authority. **SECTION 6.**
29 **CURRICULUM FLEXIBILITY.** (a) The Department of
30 Education shall develop model instructional standards and
31 resources to assist school districts. (b) School districts may adopt
32 the model curriculum or develop equivalent instructional
33 materials that meet or exceed state standards. (c) Nothing in this

1 Act shall require the hiring of additional instructional staff if
2 existing teachers are qualified to provide instruction. **SECTION**
3 **7. IMPLEMENTATION AND REPORTING.** (a) The Department
4 shall provide implementation guidance to school districts prior to
5 the start of the 2026–2027 academic year. (b) Beginning January
6 1, 2028, the Department shall report to the Governor and the
7 General Assembly regarding implementation status and
8 recommendations for improvement. **SECTION 8.**
9 **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY.** The Department of Education
10 may promulgate rules necessary to implement this Act.
11 **SECTION 9. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Act shall take effect July
12 1, 2026 and become implemented in the 2026-2027 school year.
13 **SECTION 10. CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY.** (a) The
14 General Assembly recognizes Article IX, Section 4 of the
15 Constitution of the State of San Andreas, which provides that the
16 State shall not compel any school district to adopt specific
17 textbooks, reading materials, or curricula, and that the selection of
18 instructional materials remains vested in local school boards. (b)
19 Nothing in this Act shall be construed to require any school
20 district to adopt a particular textbook, instructional material, or
21 prescribed curriculum. (c) This Act establishes only minimum
22 instructional standards concerning subject matter required for a
23 thorough and efficient education, consistent with the authority
24 expressly reserved to the Legislature under Article IX, Section 4
25 of the state constitution. (d) School districts retain sole authority
26 to determine the instructional methods, materials, and specific
27 curricular content used to satisfy the requirements of this Act,
28 provided that students receive instruction covering the minimum
29 subject areas identified herein. (e) The purpose of this section is to
30 clarify that the Act establishes statewide educational standards
31 while preserving local control over curriculum implementation
32 and instructional materials.