

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

ENGROSSED

LLS NO. 26-0723.02 Payton Gibson x2365

HOUSE BILL 26-018

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Robertson, Kent

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Gonzales, Hurst, Jenkins

House Committees

Education (K-12)

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. (d) “State constitution instruction” means
10 coursework or instructional units specifically addressing the
11 history, structure, interpretation, and civic application of the
12 Constitution of the State of San Andreas. **SECTION 4.**
13 **REQUIRED INSTRUCTION.** (a) Beginning with the 2026–2027
14 academic year, each public high school shall provide instruction
15 on the Constitution of the State of San Andreas. (b) School
16 districts may satisfy this requirement by: (I) Offering a standalone
17 course on state government or constitutional civics; or (II)
18 Incorporating required content into an existing civics,
19 government, or social studies course. (c) Completion of
20 instruction required under this section shall be a condition for
21 graduation for students entering ninth grade during or after the
22 2026–2027 academic year. (d) School districts shall ensure that
23 the instruction required under this section is provided prior to a
24 student’s completion of the twelfth grade. (e) Students transferring
25 into a public high school within the state during their junior or
26 senior year may satisfy the graduation requirement established
27 under this section through completion of an abbreviated
28 instructional unit approved by the school district. (f) As part of the
29 civics instruction required under this Act, school districts shall
30 provide students with at least one experiential civic learning
31 opportunity, which may include: (I) A field trip to the State
32 Capitol of San Andreas; (II) Attendance at a meeting of a local
33 governing body, including a city council, county commission, or

1 school board; or (III) Participation in a simulated legislative or
2 civic proceeding approved by the school district. (g) As part of the
3 civics instruction required under this section, each student shall
4 complete a civic engagement project prior to graduation
5 demonstrating practical understanding of state or local
6 government processes. Such projects may include, but are not
7 limited to: (I) Communicating with an elected official or public
8 agency regarding a public policy issue; (II) Attending or
9 observing a meeting of a governmental body, including the
10 General Assembly, a city council, county commission, or school
11 board; (III) Analyzing or presenting a report on a legislative bill,
12 ballot measure, or court decision affecting the State of San
13 Andreas; or (IV) Participating in a simulated legislative, judicial,
14 or public policy exercise approved by the school district. (h) As a
15 condition of graduation, each student shall demonstrate
16 proficiency in basic civic knowledge relating to the Constitution
17 of the State of San Andreas and the structure of state government.
18 The Department of Education shall develop a civics proficiency
19 assessment or approved equivalent standard to measure student
20 understanding of the topics required under this Act. (i) A student
21 who does not initially demonstrate proficiency under subsection
22 (h) of this section shall be provided additional instructional
23 opportunities and may retake the civics proficiency assessment
24 prior to graduation. **SECTION 5. REQUIRED SUBJECT**
25 **MATTER.** Instruction required under this Act shall include, at
26 minimum: (a) The structure and powers of the executive,
27 legislative, and judicial branches of the State of San Andreas; (b)
28 The role and responsibilities of state constitutional officers; (c)
29 The legislative process within the General Assembly; (d) Direct
30 democracy mechanisms established by the state constitution,
31 including: (I) Initiative; (II) Referendum; (III) Recall; and (IV)
32 Citizen veto; (e) The rights and responsibilities of citizens under
33 the state constitution; and (f) The relationship between state and

1 federal government authority. (g) Instruction required under this
2 section shall also include discussion of the amendment process for
3 the Constitution of the State of San Andreas and the role of voters
4 in ratifying constitutional amendments. (h) Instruction shall
5 include examples of historical constitutional amendments,
6 landmark state court decisions interpreting the state constitution,
7 and the development of state institutions. (i) Instruction required
8 under this Act may include experiential learning opportunities
9 such as mock legislative sessions, simulated elections, or student
10 participation in civic engagement activities related to state
11 government. (j) Instruction required under this Act shall include
12 study of the Bill of Rights contained in Article II of the
13 Constitution of the State of San Andreas, including the civil
14 liberties and protections guaranteed to residents and the
15 relationship between those protections and corresponding
16 provisions of the United States Constitution. (k) Instruction
17 regarding the Bill of Rights contained in Article II of the
18 Constitution of the State of San Andreas shall include discussion
19 of the rights of due process, free expression, privacy, equal
20 protection, and other civil liberties recognized under state
21 constitutional law. (l) Instruction required under this Act shall
22 include education regarding voter participation in the State of San
23 Andreas, including the process for voter registration, eligibility
24 requirements for voting, and the role of elections in representative
25 government. (m) Public high schools may provide eligible
26 students with information regarding voter registration
27 opportunities and participation in elections, including voluntary
28 voter registration programs for students who will be eighteen
29 years of age on or before the next general election. **SECTION 6.**
30 **CURRICULUM FLEXIBILITY.** (a) The Department of
31 Education shall develop model instructional standards and
32 resources to assist school districts. (b) School districts may adopt
33 the model curriculum or develop equivalent instructional

1 materials that meet or exceed state standards. (c) Nothing in this
2 Act shall require the hiring of additional instructional staff if
3 existing teachers are qualified to provide instruction. (d) The
4 Department of Education shall make available publicly accessible
5 instructional resources, including digital materials, primary source
6 documents, and sample lesson plans relating to the Constitution of
7 the State of San Andreas. (e) Nothing in this Act shall prohibit
8 school districts from expanding instruction regarding state
9 government, civic participation, or constitutional law beyond the
10 minimum standards established herein. (f) The Department of
11 Education shall provide guidance to school districts regarding
12 implementation of experiential civic learning opportunities
13 required under Section 4(f), including strategies for schools
14 located in rural areas or communities with limited access to
15 governmental institutions. (g) The Department of Education shall
16 develop guidance and example project frameworks to assist
17 school districts in implementing the civic engagement project
18 requirement established in Section 4(g), while preserving local
19 flexibility in how such projects are administered. (h) The
20 Department of Education shall provide model civics assessment
21 materials and guidance to assist school districts in implementing
22 the proficiency requirement established under Section 4(h).
23 School districts may administer the state-developed assessment or
24 adopt an equivalent locally developed assessment that meets or
25 exceeds the state standard. (i) The Department of Education may
26 coordinate with the Secretary of State to develop educational
27 materials and resources relating to voter registration and civic
28 participation for use in the instruction required under this Act.
29 **SECTION 7. IMPLEMENTATION AND REPORTING.** (a) The
30 Department shall provide implementation guidance to school
31 districts prior to the start of the 2026–2027 academic year. (b)
32 Beginning January 1, 2028, the Department shall report to the
33 Governor and the General Assembly regarding implementation

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