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MEMORANDUM

To: Senate Committee on Education
From: Office of Revisor of Statutes
Date: March 22, 2021
Subject: House Bill 2039—Civics Test Required

K.S.A. 72-3217 currently requires all accredited high schools to provide a course of instruction concerning the government and the constitution of the United States and such course is required for graduation from high school.

House Bill 2039 would require each student enrolled in an accredited high school, beginning in the 9th grade, to pass a basic civics test or series of tests comprising a total of 60 questions randomly selected from the civics examination administered by the United States citizenship and immigration services.

HB 2039 would also require each accredited high school to submit aggregate student achievement data for the basic civics test to the state board of education annually. The state board would compile such reports and submit a summary report to the legislature in January each year.

HB 2039 provides that a student's IEP may take precedence over this requirement.

The bill would authorize the State Board of Education to adopt rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this bill.

The bill would take effect upon publication in the statute book.