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300 SW TENTH AVENUE ■ SUITE 24-E ■ TOPEKA, KS 66612 ■ (785) 296-2321

MEMORANDUM

To: House Committee on Education
From: Office of Revisor of Statutes
Date: February 3, 2021
Subject: House Bill 2039

Current law in K.S.A. 72-3217 requires all accredited schools, both public and private, to provide a course of instruction suitable to the elementary grades in civil government, United States history, patriotism and the duties of a citizen. Current law also 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 an examination on the principles of American civics. Such examination would be required to consist of 100 questions that are substantially similar to the United States citizenship and naturalization test. Passage of such test would be required for graduation from high school.

HB 2039 would authorize any student, beginning in the seventh grade, to take the examination as many times as necessary to obtain a passing score. 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.