

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7431

To implement the proposed constitutional amendment requiring Members of Congress to demonstrate competence in American civics.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 9, 2026

Mr. HUNT introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To implement the proposed constitutional amendment requiring Members of Congress to demonstrate competence in American civics.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Congressional Civics
5 Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. IMPLEMENTATION OF EVENTUAL CONSTITUTIONAL**
2 **REQUIREMENT THAT MEMBERS OF CON-**
3 **GRESS DEMONSTRATE COMPETENCE IN**
4 **AMERICAN CIVICS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Congress shall establish and
6 administer, for each census term, the examination re-
7 quired for Members of Congress to demonstrate com-
8 petence on the system of government under the United
9 States Constitution.

10 (b) EXAMINATION REQUIREMENT FOR MEMBERS OF
11 CONGRESS.—A House of Congress may not seat an indi-
12 vidual as a Member following the election or appointment
13 of the individual, as the case may be, unless the individual
14 can demonstrate, in accordance with the rules of the
15 House concerned, that the individual has successfully com-
16 pleted the examination in effect at the time of the election
17 or the appointment.

18 (c) EFFECT OF FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH EXAM-
19 INATION REQUIREMENT.—An individual elected or ap-
20 pointed to be a Member of Congress who does not success-
21 fully complete the examination in effect at the time of the
22 election or appointment may not become a Member until
23 the individual successfully completes the examination, and
24 a vacancy shall arise with respect to the election or ap-
25 pointment if the individual does not successfully complete

1 the examination before two weeks after the election or ap-
2 pointment.

3 (d) CONTENT OF EXAMINATION.—The examination
4 shall consist of 25 questions randomly drawn from among
5 100 questions approved in accordance with this section,
6 with 5 questions from each of the following topics:

7 (1) The founding of the first colonies and fac-
8 tors contributing to American independence.

9 (2) Events in the American Revolution.

10 (3) The Constitutional Convention of 1787 and
11 the ratification of the United States Constitution.

12 (4) The Civil War and Reconstruction.

13 (5) The First World War.

14 (6) The Second World War.

15 (7) The Declaration of Independence.

16 (8) The Articles of Confederation.

17 (9) The United States Constitution.

18 (10) The Bill of Rights.

19 (11) The constitutional amendments ratified
20 following the Civil War.

21 (12) The other amendments to the Constitu-
22 tion.

23 (13) Civil rights and civil liberties.

24 (14) Due process and the rule of law.

25 (15) Elections and the democratic process.

1 (16) Federalism, the relationship between the
2 States and the Federal Government, and the relation
3 between the United States and Indian Tribes.

4 (17) Separation of powers under the Constitu-
5 tion.

6 (18) The Congress.

7 (19) The President and the executive depart-
8 ments.

9 (20) The Supreme Court and the Federal judi-
10 ciary.

11 (e) CORRECT ANSWERS.—A response to a question
12 in the examination shall be considered correct if the re-
13 sponse is in accordance with the corresponding model an-
14 swer to the question.

15 (f) COMMITTEE REPORT ON PROPOSED QUESTIONS
16 AND ANSWERS FOR THE EXAMINATION.—Not later than
17 June 30 of the year preceding the start of a census term,
18 the appropriate congressional committees shall jointly sub-
19 mit to the House of Representatives and the Senate a re-
20 port on the examination for the census term which shall
21 include—

22 (1) questions and corresponding model answers
23 in accordance with subsections (d) and (e);

1 (2) the number of correct responses required
2 for an individual taking the examination to success-
3 fully complete the examination; and

4 (3) the rules to govern the proceedings for the
5 joint session of Congress under subsection (h)—

6 (A) to consider, make amendments to, or
7 replace the questions and corresponding model
8 answers described in paragraph (1) or the num-
9 ber of correct responses required for successful
10 completion of the examination under paragraph
11 (2); and

12 (B) to approve the examination after car-
13 rying out subparagraph (A).

14 (g) MEMBER SUBMISSIONS OF QUESTIONS AND AN-
15 SWERS.—Not later than March 31 of the year preceding
16 the start of a census term, a Member of Congress may
17 submit to the appropriate congressional committees such
18 questions and corresponding model answers for inclusion
19 in the report under subsection (f).

20 (h) JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS FOR CONSIDER-
21 ATION AND APPROVAL OF THE EXAMINATION.—Not ear-
22 lier than two months after the submission of the report
23 under subsection (f) and not later than October 31 of the
24 year before the start of a census term, the House of Rep-
25 resentatives and the Senate shall meet in a joint session

1 of Congress to consider the report and approve the exam-
2 ination, in accordance with the rules to govern the pro-
3 ceedings for the joint session included in the report.

4 (i) EFFECTIVE DATE OF EXAMINATION.—The exam-
5 ination approved under subsection (h) in the year pre-
6 ceding the start of a census term shall be the examination
7 in effect for the census term.

8 (j) PUBLICATION OF THE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
9 FOR THE EXAMINATION.—On approval of the examination
10 under subsection (h), each House of Congress shall cause
11 the approved questions and corresponding model answers
12 with respect to the examination to be published in the
13 journal of proceedings of the House concerned, and the
14 appropriate congressional committees shall make available
15 to the public a report containing the approved questions
16 and corresponding model answers which shall also include
17 such other information reasonably necessary for an indi-
18 vidual to successfully complete the examination.

19 (k) ADMINISTRATION OF THE EXAMINATION.—The
20 Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary
21 of the Senate, or their respective designees, shall—

22 (1) jointly administer the examination in ac-
23 cordance with this section;

24 (2) subject to subsection (l), make the examina-
25 tion available, through a platform available on the

1 internet, for any citizen of the United States to take
2 at the discretion and convenience of the citizen,
3 without cost to the citizen;

4 (3) maintain a database accessible to the gen-
5 eral public of individuals who have successfully com-
6 pleted the examination; and

7 (4) provide to any individual who successfully
8 completes the examination, on the demand of the in-
9 dividual, a certificate that shall serve as conclusive
10 proof with respect to successfully completing the ex-
11 amination.

12 (l) LIMIT ON EXAMINATION SITTINGS.—An indi-
13 vidual may not take the examination under this section
14 more than 3 times each calendar year, but an individual
15 elected or appointed to be a Member of Congress who does
16 not successfully complete the examination before the elec-
17 tion or appointment shall have the opportunity to take the
18 examination at least once before a vacancy shall arise with
19 respect to the election or appointment, notwithstanding
20 any attempts to take the examination before the election
21 or appointment.

22 (m) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

23 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
24 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
25 mittees” means the following:

1 (A) The Committee on House Administra-
2 tion of the House of Representatives.

3 (B) The Committee on Rules and Adminis-
4 tration of the Senate.

5 (2) CENSUS TERM.—The term “census term”
6 means a term of 10 calendar years that begins on
7 the first day of a calendar year with a decennial cen-
8 sus date under section 141 of title 13, United States
9 Code.

10 (3) MEMBER OF CONGRESS.—The term “Mem-
11 ber of Congress” means a Senator or Representative
12 in, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the
13 Congress.

14 (n) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect
15 on the ratification of the article of amendment to the Con-
16 stitution of the United States in H.J.Res. 146 of the One
17 Hundred Nineteenth Congress, as introduced on January
18 30, 2026.

19 **SEC. 3. INTERIM IMPLEMENTATION OF EXAMINATION FOR**
20 **COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—For each census term, each
22 House of the Congress shall establish and administer an
23 examination in accordance with this section, with respect
24 to which a Member of Congress in the House concerned
25 may not be assigned to a committee in the House or a

1 joint committee of the Congress unless the Member can
2 demonstrate, in accordance with the rules of the House,
3 that the Member has successfully completed the examina-
4 tion in effect at the time of the committee assignment.

5 (b) EXERCISE OF RULEMAKING POWERS.—This sec-
6 tion is enacted by the Congress—

7 (1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of
8 the Senate and the House of Representatives, re-
9 spectively, and as such it is deemed a part of the
10 rules of each House, respectively, and it supersedes
11 other rules only to the extent that it is inconsistent
12 with such rules; and

13 (2) with full recognition of the constitutional
14 right of either House to change the rules (so far as
15 relating to that House) at any time, in the same
16 manner, and to the same extent as in the case of
17 any other rule of that House.

18 (c) CONTENT OF EXAMINATION.—The examination
19 shall consist of 25 questions randomly drawn from among
20 100 questions approved by the applicable House of Con-
21 gress in accordance with this section, with 5 questions
22 from each of the following topics:

23 (1) The founding of the first colonies and fac-
24 tors contributing to American independence.

25 (2) Events in the American Revolution.

1 (3) The Constitutional Convention of 1787 and
2 the ratification of the United States Constitution.

3 (4) The Civil War and Reconstruction.

4 (5) The First World War.

5 (6) The Second World War.

6 (7) The Declaration of Independence.

7 (8) The Articles of Confederation.

8 (9) The United States Constitution.

9 (10) The Bill of Rights.

10 (11) The constitutional amendments ratified
11 following the Civil War.

12 (12) The other amendments to the Constitu-
13 tion.

14 (13) Civil rights and civil liberties.

15 (14) Due process and the rule of law.

16 (15) Elections and the democratic process.

17 (16) Federalism, the relationship between the
18 States and the Federal Government, and the relation
19 between the United States and Indian Tribes.

20 (17) Separation of powers under the Constitu-
21 tion.

22 (18) The Congress.

23 (19) The President and the executive depart-
24 ments.

1 (20) The Supreme Court and the Federal judi-
2 ciary.

3 (d) CORRECT ANSWERS.—A response to a question
4 in the examination shall be considered correct if the re-
5 sponse is in accordance with the corresponding model an-
6 swer to the question.

7 (e) COMMITTEE REPORT ON PROPOSED QUESTIONS
8 AND ANSWERS FOR THE EXAMINATION.—Not later than
9 June 30 of the year preceding the start of a census term,
10 the appropriate congressional committees shall jointly sub-
11 mit to the House of Representatives and the Senate a re-
12 port on the examination for the census term which shall
13 include—

14 (1) questions and corresponding model answers
15 in accordance with subsections (d) and (e); and

16 (2) the number of correct responses required
17 for an individual taking the examination to success-
18 fully complete the examination.

19 (f) MEMBER SUBMISSIONS OF QUESTIONS AND AN-
20 SWERS.—Not later than March 31 of the year preceding
21 the start of a census term, a Member of Congress may
22 submit to the appropriate congressional committees such
23 questions and corresponding model answers for inclusion
24 in the report under subsection (e).

1 (g) CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF THE EXAM-
2 INATION BY EACH HOUSE OF CONGRESS.—Not earlier
3 than two months after the submission of the report under
4 subsection (e) and not later than October 31 of the year
5 before the start of a census term, each House of the Con-
6 gress shall consider the report in accordance with the rules
7 of the House concerned and approve the examination
8 which shall be applicable to the House.

9 (h) EFFECTIVE DATE OF EXAMINATION.—The exam-
10 ination approved by a House of Congress under subsection
11 (g) in the year preceding the start of a census term shall
12 be the examination in effect for the census term with re-
13 spect to the House.

14 (i) PUBLICATION OF THE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
15 FOR THE EXAMINATION.—On approval of the examination
16 under subsection (g), each House of Congress shall cause
17 the approved questions and corresponding model answers
18 with respect to the examination to be published in the
19 journal of proceedings of the House concerned.

20 (j) ADMINISTRATION OF THE EXAMINATION.—The
21 Clerk of the House of Representatives, on the part of the
22 House of Representatives, and the Secretary of the Sen-
23 ate, on the part of the Senate, shall each administer the
24 examination applicable to the House concerned in accord-
25 ance with this section and the rules of the House.

1 (k) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

2 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
3 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
4 mittees” means the following:

5 (A) The Committee on House Administra-
6 tion of the House of Representatives.

7 (B) The Committee on Rules and Adminis-
8 tration of the Senate.

9 (2) CENSUS TERM.—The term “census term”
10 means a term of 10 calendar years that begins on
11 the first day of a calendar year with a decennial cen-
12 sus date under section 141 of title 13, United States
13 Code.

14 (3) MEMBER OF CONGRESS.—The term “Mem-
15 ber of Congress” means a Senator or Representative
16 in, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the
17 Congress.

18 (l) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subject to subsection (n),
19 this section shall take effect with respect to the One Hun-
20 dred Twentieth Congress and each succeeding Congress.

21 (m) TERMINATION DATE.—This section shall termi-
22 nate on the effective date specified in section 2.

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