



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 317**

January Session, 2025

House Bill No. 7009

*House of Representatives, March 27, 2025*

The Committee on Education reported through REP. LEEPER of the 132nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE  
CONNECTICUT STATE SEAL OF CIVICS EDUCATION AND  
ENGAGEMENT.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 10-5 of the general statutes is amended by adding  
2 subsection (g) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

3 (NEW) (g) The Department of Education shall establish criteria by  
4 which a local or regional board of education, or the governing board of  
5 any other school that awards diplomas, may affix the Connecticut State  
6 Seal of Civics Education and Engagement on a diploma awarded to a  
7 student who has achieved a high level of proficiency in civics education  
8 and engagement. Such criteria shall include, but need not be limited to,  
9 (1) successful completion of history or social science courses for at least  
10 two school years, one of which shall be a course on the United States  
11 government or civics, (2) participation in at least one civic engagement  
12 project, such as community service, participation in student  
13 government or involvement in a civic organization, and (3)

14 demonstrated proficiency in civics knowledge through a standardized  
15 assessment, portfolio of work that includes essays, projects or  
16 presentations related to civics or other mastery-based assessment or  
17 process.

18 Sec. 2. Section 10-221a of the general statutes is amended by adding  
19 subsection (m) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

20 (NEW) (m) Commencing with classes graduating in 2026, and for  
21 each graduating class thereafter, a local or regional board of education  
22 may affix the Connecticut State Seal of Civics Education and  
23 Engagement, as described in subsection (g) of section 10-5, as amended  
24 by this act, to a diploma awarded to a student who has achieved a high  
25 level of proficiency in civics education and engagement. The local or  
26 regional board of education shall include on such student's transcript a  
27 designation that the student received the Connecticut State Seal of  
28 Civics Education and Engagement.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

|           |                     |            |
|-----------|---------------------|------------|
| Section 1 | <i>July 1, 2025</i> | 10-5(g)    |
| Sec. 2    | <i>July 1, 2025</i> | 10-221a(m) |

**ED**      *Joint Favorable*

*The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.*

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### **OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

### **Explanation**

There is no cost associated with establishing criteria or affixing the Connecticut State Seal of Civics Education and Engagement to high school diplomas, since the State Department of Education has staff with expertise in this area, and the change is procedural in nature.

### **The Out Years**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:** None

**OLR Bill Analysis****HB 7009*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CONNECTICUT STATE SEAL OF CIVICS EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT.*****SUMMARY**

This bill creates the Connecticut State Seal of Civics Education and Engagement and allows school governing boards to place the seal on eligible high school graduates' diplomas to signify that they achieved high proficiency in civics education and engagement.

The bill requires the State Department of Education to establish criteria for awarding the seal, which must include, at a minimum, requiring the student to:

1. successfully complete a history or social science course for at least two school years, including one United States government or civics course;
2. participate in at least one civic engagement project (e.g., community service, student government, or civic organization involvement); and
3. demonstrate proficiency in civics knowledge through a standardized assessment, work portfolio (including civics-related essays, projects, or presentations), or other mastery-based assessment or process.

Under the bill, the seal may be awarded by local and regional boards of education and by governing boards of any other diploma-awarding school. If a local or regional board of education chooses to award this seal to eligible students, it must also indicate on each recipient student's transcript that he or she was awarded the seal. School boards may

award this seal starting with classes graduating in 2026.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Education Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea     32     Nay   8     (03/12/2025)