
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)