
SENATE BILL 5944

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senators McAuliffe, Finkbeiner, Regala, Hochstatter, Costa, Fairley, Stevens, Oke and Rasmussen

Read first time 02/09/2001. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to a civic education day; adding a new section to
2 chapter 28A.230 RCW; creating a new section; and providing an effective
3 date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the operations of
6 the local, state, and federal government and the roles of individual
7 policymakers are often not understood by citizens. Yet public
8 understanding of the institutions and processes of government is
9 critical to a healthy democracy and the building of public trust and
10 confidence in our elected officials. The legislature further finds
11 that civic education through our public schools is a vital tool to
12 promote greater understanding of the role that the voters and
13 policymakers play in a representative democracy.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.230
15 RCW to read as follows:

16 Each school shall conduct a civic education day once during the
17 last full week of October in every odd-numbered year. The purpose of
18 civic education day is to educate future citizens about the concepts of

1 government and representative democracy, and to promote civic
2 education. At a minimum, civic education day must include, but not be
3 limited to, the following:

4 (1) A school-wide assembly lasting not less than one regular class
5 period. The assembly must include at least one speaker who is an
6 elected official from local, state, or federal government; and

7 (2) Voter registration information and, when appropriate,
8 opportunities for students to register.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act takes effect September 1, 2001.

--- END ---