
SENATE BILL 6343

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Senators Kline, Kastama, Weinstein, Rasmussen, Fairley, Keiser, Thibaudeau, Pflug, Kohl-Welles, Roach and Benton

Read first time 01/11/2006. Referred to Committee on Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to a mandatory high school civics requirement;
2 adding a new section to chapter 28A.655 RCW; and creating a new
3 section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that students need to
6 know and understand the structure, workings, and roots of our state and
7 nation's democratic institutions and traditions. The legislature
8 further finds that studies on the historical and civics knowledge of
9 America's students suggest that too few students are learning those
10 lessons well. The United States department of education's national
11 assessment of education progress shows that fewer than twenty-five
12 percent of America's students are proficient in either history or
13 civics. In addition, while most of the states have learning standards
14 in the two subjects, only twelve states have enough depth and breadth
15 in the standards to ensure that students will understand their civic
16 responsibilities and opportunities once the students reach adulthood.
17 The legislature intends to make it mandatory that all graduating
18 students have at least one course in civics.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.655
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) Beginning with the graduating class of 2010, students must
4 complete at least one course in civics. The superintendent of public
5 instruction shall develop specific guidelines to implement this
6 requirement.

7 (2) For the purposes of this section, "civics" means the social
8 science that analyzes our state's and nation's democratic institutions
9 and traditions including the rights and duties of citizens.

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