

**SB 5102-S - DIGEST**

(DIGEST OF PROPOSED 1ST SUBSTITUTE)

Finds that the legislative youth advisory council provides a unique opportunity for middle and high school students to be actively involved in government. Council members not only learn about, but exercise, the core values and democratic principles of our state and nation, along with the rights and responsibilities of citizenship and democratic civic involvement. As such, they are engaged in authentic practice of the essential academic learning requirements in civics. In the short time since its creation, the legislative youth advisory council has studied, debated, and begun to formulate positions and recommendations on such important topics as education reform, school finance, public school learning environments, health and fitness education, and standardized testing. The legislature continues to stress the importance of civics education and support the type of civic involvement by students exemplified by the legislative youth advisory council.

Declares an intent to make improvements to the program and expand the opportunities for students to participate by creating regional councils.