

2SHB 1896 - S COMM AMD
By Committee on Ways & Means

ADOPTED AS AMENDED 03/01/2018

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that effective
4 civics education teaches students how to be active, informed, and
5 engaged citizens. The legislature recognizes that RCW 28A.150.210
6 identifies civics as one component of a basic education and that one-
7 half credit in civics is required for high school graduation. The
8 required civics content, however, may be embedded in another social
9 studies course.

10 Civics requirements are meant to ensure that every student
11 receives a high-quality civics education from kindergarten through
12 twelfth grade. The legislature also recognizes, however, that two
13 factors limit the effectiveness of civics education.

14 First, when the one-half civics credit is embedded in other
15 courses rather than taught in a stand-alone civics course, the
16 required content is easily diluted or ignored altogether. Pressure to
17 emphasize other areas of the curriculum can relegate civics education
18 to a lesser role.

19 Second, professional development opportunities for teachers in
20 civics education are rare. In many districts, due to limited budgets
21 and competing demands for funding, opportunities for teachers to
22 deepen instructional and curricular practices in civics do not exist.

23 The legislature, therefore, intends to: Require school districts
24 to provide a mandatory stand-alone civics course for all high school
25 students; and support the development of an in-depth and interactive
26 teacher professional development program to improve the ability of
27 teachers throughout the state to provide students with an effective
28 civics education from kindergarten through twelfth grade. This
29 expanded civics education program seeks to ensure that students have
30 basic knowledge about national, state, tribal, and local governments,
31 and that they develop the skills and dispositions needed to become
32 informed and engaged citizens.

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

3 (1)(a) Beginning with or before the 2020-21 school year, each
4 school district that operates a high school must provide a mandatory
5 one-half credit stand-alone course in civics for each high school
6 student. Except as provided by (c) of this subsection, civics content
7 and instruction embedded in other social studies courses do not
8 satisfy the requirements of this subsection.

9 (b) Credit awarded to students who complete the civics course
10 must be applied to course credit requirements in social studies that
11 are required for high school graduation.

12 (c) Civics content and instruction required by this section may
13 be embedded in social studies courses that offer students the
14 opportunity to earn both high school and postsecondary credit.

15 (2) The content of the civics course must include, but is not
16 limited to:

17 (a) Federal, state, tribal, and local government organization and
18 procedures;

19 (b) Rights and responsibilities of citizens addressed in the
20 Washington state and United States Constitutions;

21 (c) Current issues addressed at each level of government;

22 (d) Electoral issues, including elections, ballot measures,
23 initiatives, and referenda;

24 (e) The study and completion of the civics component of the
25 federally administered naturalization test required of persons
26 seeking to become naturalized United States citizens; and

27 (f) The importance in a free society of living the basic values
28 and character traits specified in RCW 28A.150.211.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.415
30 RCW to read as follows:

31 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
32 specific purpose, an expanded civics education teacher training
33 program is established within the office of the superintendent of
34 public instruction.

35 (2) The program must provide for the selection of a team of
36 qualified social studies teachers, and when appropriate, civics
37 education specialists, from across the state who will:

38 (a) Develop teacher training materials using existing open
39 educational resources (OERs) that include civics information on

1 national, state, tribal, and local government, and the civics
2 component of the federally administered naturalization test required
3 of persons seeking to become naturalized United States citizens;

4 (b) Provide teacher training across the state, consistent with
5 provisions in this chapter, and using the tools established by the
6 office of the superintendent of public instruction including the
7 college, career, and civic life (C3) framework and the six proven
8 instructional practices for enhancing civic education; and

9 (c) Provide professional learning opportunities as described in
10 section 2(3), chapter 77, Laws of 2016, which states that
11 professional learning shall incorporate differentiated, coherent,
12 sustained, and evidence-based strategies that improve educator
13 effectiveness and student achievement, including job-embedded
14 coaching or other forms of assistance to support educators' transfer
15 of new knowledge and skills into their practice.

16 (3) The program shall assure an increase in the number of:

17 (a) Teachers with the knowledge and skills to effectively engage
18 students in civics education;

19 (b) Students who have a basic understanding of how governments
20 work; and

21 (c) Students from every demographic and socioeconomic group who
22 know their rights and responsibilities within society and are
23 prepared to exercise them.

24 (4) The office of the superintendent of public instruction may
25 accept gifts and grants to assist with the establishment and
26 implementation of the program established in this section.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
28 RCW to read as follows:

29 Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
30 specific purpose, the office of the superintendent of public
31 instruction shall select two school districts that are diverse in
32 size and in geographic and demographic makeup to serve as
33 demonstration sites for enhanced civics education. These
34 demonstration sites will:

35 (1) Implement and assess an in-depth civics education program
36 that includes the six proven instructional practices for enhancing
37 civic education in kindergarten through twelfth grade classrooms;

1 (2) Collaborate with programs and agencies in the local community
2 in order to expand after-school and summer civics education
3 opportunities;

4 (3) Monitor and report the level of penetration of civics
5 education in school and out-of-school programs;

6 (4) Ensure that underserved students including rural, low-income,
7 immigrant, and refugee students are prioritized in the implementation
8 of programs;

9 (5) Develop evaluation standards and a procedure for endorsing
10 civics education curriculum that can be recommended for use in other
11 school districts and out-of-school programs; and

12 (6) Provide an annual report on the demonstration sites by
13 December 1st each year to the governor and the committees of the
14 legislature with oversight over K-12 education.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** RCW 28A.230.093 (Social studies course
16 credits—Civics coursework) and 2009 c 223 s 3 are each repealed.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** If specific funding for the purposes of
18 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not
19 provided by June 30, 2018, in the omnibus appropriations act, this
20 act is null and void."

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21 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "schools;" strike the
22 remainder of the title and insert "adding a new section to chapter
23 28A.230 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28A.415 RCW; adding a
24 new section to chapter 28A.300 RCW; creating new sections; and
25 repealing RCW 28A.230.093."

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