

---

HOUSE BILL 2252

---

State of Washington

54th Legislature

1996 Regular Session

By Representatives Pelesky, Goldsmith, Smith, Boldt, Benton, Mulliken, Koster, Hargrove, McMahan, Hymes, Carrell, Campbell, Johnson, Thompson and Stevens

Read first time 01/08/96. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to instruction in foundational historical documents  
2 of importance to basic American political and social values; amending  
3 RCW 28A.230.170; and adding a new section to chapter 28A.230 RCW.

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

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

7 (1) The preamble to the Washington state Constitution states, "We,  
8 the people of the State of Washington, grateful to the Supreme Ruler of  
9 the Universe for our liberties, do ordain this constitution." The  
10 founders of our state recognized the source of our freedoms and  
11 expressed their gratitude thereto in the Constitution.

12 (2) The legislature finds that the Magna Carta, the Mayflower  
13 Compact, the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the  
14 United States, the Bill of Rights, the Federalist Papers, George  
15 Washington's First Inaugural Address and Farewell Address, Hornbook  
16 Reader, New England Primer, and the Constitution of the state of  
17 Washington:

18 (a) Arose from the conviction that progress could be achieved  
19 through virtuous and enlightened self-government;

1 (b) Embody the fundamental principles of our political freedoms and  
2 social distinctives and reflect our long and rich heritage of liberty  
3 and opportunity; and

4 (c) Are lasting monuments to the dedicated individuals who helped  
5 create the intellectual and moral basis for the greatest nation in the  
6 world, the constitutional republic of the United States of America.

7 (3) The legislature further finds that young people need to:

8 (a) Fully appreciate the nature of liberty and the ideas that laid  
9 the foundation for the rights, privileges, and quality of life we enjoy  
10 today as United States citizens;

11 (b) Clearly understand the duties inherent in responsible  
12 citizenship including the obligation to become meaningfully informed  
13 and to participate actively in the electoral process; and

14 (c) Read, discuss, and understand the Magna Carta, the Mayflower  
15 Compact, the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the  
16 United States, the Bill of Rights, the Federalist Papers, George  
17 Washington's First Inaugural Address and Farewell Address, Hornbook  
18 Reader, New England Primer, and the Constitution of the state of  
19 Washington as representative of the basic values this nation and state  
20 were founded upon.

21 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.230.170 and 1985 c 341 s 1 are each amended to  
22 read as follows:

23 The thorough study and demonstrated knowledge and understanding of  
24 the Constitution of the United States, the Magna Carta, the Mayflower  
25 Compact, the Declaration of Independence, the Federalist Papers, George  
26 Washington's First Inaugural Address and Farewell Address, Hornbook  
27 Reader, New England Primer, and the Constitution of the state of  
28 Washington shall be a condition prerequisite to graduation from the  
29 public and private high schools of this state. The state board of  
30 education acting upon the advice of the superintendent of public  
31 instruction shall provide by rule or regulation for the implementation  
32 of this section.

--- END ---