

2SHB 1896 - S COMM AMD

By Committee on Ways & Means

ADOPTED AND ENGROSSED 3/1/18

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."

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17 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "schools;" strike the  
18 remainder of the title and insert "adding a new section to chapter  
19 28A.230 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28A.415 RCW; adding a  
20 new section to chapter 28A.300 RCW; creating a new section; and  
21 repealing RCW 28A.230.093."

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