

AMENDMENTS TO LB399

(Amendments to Standing Committee amendments, AM286)

Introduced by Hunt, 8.

1 1. Strike the original sections and all amendments thereto and
2 insert the following new sections:

3 Section 1. Section 79-724, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
4 amended to read:

5 79-724 A central role of schools is to impart civic knowledge and
6 skills to emphasize the value of a civic education ~~An informed, loyal,~~
7 ~~just, and patriotic citizenry is necessary to a strong, stable, just, and~~
8 ~~prosperous America. Such a citizenry necessitates that every member~~
9 ~~thereof be fully acquainted with the nation's history and that he or she~~
10 ~~be in full accord with our form of government and fully aware of the~~
11 ~~liberties, opportunities, and advantages of which we are possessed and~~
12 ~~the sacrifices and struggles of those through whose efforts these~~
13 ~~benefits were gained. Since youth is the time most susceptible to the~~
14 ~~acceptance of principles and doctrines that will influence men and women~~
15 ~~throughout their lives, it is one of the first duties of our educational~~
16 ~~system to conduct its activities, choose its textbooks, and arrange its~~
17 ~~curriculum in such a way that the love of liberty, justice, democracy,~~
18 ~~and America will be instilled in the hearts and minds of the youth of the~~
19 ~~state.~~

20 (1) The Every school board of each school district shall, at the
21 beginning of each calendar school year, appoint from its members a
22 committee of three, to be known as the committee on American civics
23 Americanism. The committee on American civics Americanism shall:

24 (a) Hold no fewer than two public meetings annually, at least one
25 where public testimony is accepted;

26 (b) Keep minutes of each meeting showing the time and place of the

1 meeting, which members were present or absent, and the substance and
2 details of all matters discussed;

3 (c) Carefully examine and ensure that the social studies curriculum
4 used in the district is aligned to the social studies standards adopted
5 pursuant to section 79-760.01 and teaches foundational knowledge in
6 civics, history, economics, financial literacy, and geography;

7 (d) Ensure that any curriculum recommended or approved by the
8 committee on American civics is made readily accessible to the public and
9 contains a reference to this section;

10 (e) Ensure that the district develops and utilizes formative,
11 interim, and summative assessments to measure student mastery of the
12 social studies standards adopted pursuant to section 79-760.01;

13 (f) Ensure that the social studies curriculum in the district
14 incorporates one or more of the following for each student:

15 (i) Administration of a written test that is identical to the entire
16 civics portion of the naturalization test used by United States
17 Citizenship and Immigration Services prior to the completion of eighth
18 grade and again prior to the completion of twelfth grade with the
19 individual score from each test for each student made available to a
20 parent or guardian of such student; or

21 (ii) Attendance or participation between the commencement of eighth
22 grade and the completion of twelfth grade in a meeting of a public body
23 as defined by section 84-1409 followed by the completion of a project or
24 paper in which each student demonstrates or discusses the personal
25 learning experience of such student related to such attendance or
26 participation; or

27 (iii) Completion of a project or paper and a class presentation
28 between the commencement of eighth grade and the completion of twelfth
29 grade concerning a person or persons or an event commemorated by a
30 national or state holiday or on a topic related to such person or persons
31 or event; and

1 ~~(a) Carefully examine, inspect, and approve all textbooks used in~~
2 ~~the teaching of American history and civil government in the school. Such~~
3 ~~textbooks shall adequately stress the services of the men and women who~~
4 ~~achieved our national independence, established our constitutional~~
5 ~~government, and preserved our union and shall be so written to include~~
6 ~~contributions by ethnic groups as to develop a pride and respect for our~~
7 ~~institutions and not be a mere recital of events and dates;~~

8 ~~(b) Assure themselves as to the character of all teachers employed~~
9 ~~and their knowledge and acceptance of the American form of government;~~
10 ~~and~~

11 ~~(g) Assure~~ ~~(c) Take all such other steps as will assure the carrying~~
12 ~~out of the provisions of this section and provide a report to the school~~
13 ~~board regarding the committee's findings and recommendations.~~

14 ~~(2) All American history courses approved for grade levels as~~
15 ~~provided by this section shall include and adequately stress~~
16 ~~contributions of all ethnic groups (a) to the development and growth of~~
17 ~~America into a great nation, (b) to art, music, education, medicine,~~
18 ~~literature, science, politics, and government, and (c) to the war~~
19 ~~services in all wars of this nation.~~

20 ~~(2) (3) All grades of all public, private, denominational, and~~
21 ~~parochial schools, below the sixth grade, shall devote at least one hour~~
22 ~~per week to exercises or teaching periods for the discussion following~~
23 ~~purpose: (a) The recital of stories having to do with American history or~~
24 ~~the deeds and exploits of American heroes; (b) The singing of patriotic~~
25 ~~songs and the insistence that every pupil memorize the Star-Spangled~~
26 ~~Banner and America; and (c) The development of reverence for the flag and~~
27 ~~instruction as to proper conduct in its presentation.~~

28 ~~(3) (4) In at least two of the three grades from the fifth grade to~~
29 ~~the eighth grade in all public, private, denominational, and parochial~~
30 ~~schools, time at least three periods per week shall be set aside for to~~
31 ~~be devoted to the teaching of American history from the social studies~~

1 ~~standards adopted pursuant to section 79-760.01 approved textbooks,~~
2 ~~taught in such a way as to make the course interesting and attractive and~~
3 ~~to develop a love of country.~~

4 (4) ~~(5)~~ In at least two courses in grades of every high school, time
5 ~~at least three periods per week~~ shall be devoted to the teaching of
6 civics and American history as outlined in the social studies standards
7 adopted pursuant to section 79-760.01, during which ~~courses~~ specific
8 attention shall be given to the following matters:

9 (a) The Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution,
10 ~~and the Constitution of Nebraska,~~ and the structure and function of local
11 government in this state;

12 (b) The rights and responsibilities of citizenship in our
13 government; ~~benefits and advantages of our form of government and the~~
14 ~~dangers and fallacies of Nazism, Communism, and similar ideologies; and~~

15 (c) The duties of citizenship, including active participation in the
16 improvement of a citizen's community, state, country, and world and the
17 value and practice of civil discourse between opposing interests; ~~and -~~

18 (d) The application of civics, history, economics, financial
19 literacy, and geography to address societal issues.

20 (5) ~~(6)~~ Appropriate ~~patriotic~~ exercises suitable to the occasion may
21 ~~shall~~ be held under the direction of the superintendent in every public,
22 private, denominational, and parochial school on national and state
23 holidays ~~Lincoln's birthday, Washington's birthday, Flag Day, Memorial~~
24 ~~Day, and Veterans Day, or on the day preceding or following such holiday,~~
25 ~~if the school is in session.~~

26 (7) ~~Every school board, the State Board of Education, and the~~
27 ~~superintendent of each school district in the state shall be held~~
28 ~~directly responsible in the order named for carrying out this section,~~
29 ~~and neglect thereof by any employee or appointed official shall be~~
30 ~~considered a dereliction of duty and cause for dismissal.~~

31 Sec. 2. Section 79-727, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is

1 amended to read:

2 79-727 The State Board of Education shall adopt and promulgate
3 rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of sections 79-724
4 through 79-727. The State Department of Education shall ensure that all
5 requirements of such sections and such rules and regulations are carried
6 out by each school district ~~Any person violating the provisions of~~
7 ~~sections 79-724 to 79-726 is guilty of a Class III misdemeanor.~~

8 Sec. 3. Section 79-760.01, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
9 2018, is amended to read:

10 79-760.01 The State Board of Education shall adopt measurable
11 academic content standards for at least the grade levels required for
12 statewide assessment pursuant to section 79-760.03 and the teaching of
13 civics and American history pursuant to section 79-724. The standards
14 shall cover the subject areas of reading, writing, mathematics, science,
15 and social studies. The standards adopted shall be sufficiently clear and
16 measurable to be used for testing student performance with respect to
17 mastery of the content described in the state standards. The State Board
18 of Education shall develop a plan to review and update standards for each
19 subject area every seven years. The state board plan shall include a
20 review of commonly accepted standards adopted by school districts.

21 Sec. 4. Original sections 79-724 and 79-727, Reissue Revised
22 Statutes of Nebraska, and section 79-760.01, Revised Statutes Cumulative
23 Supplement, 2018, are repealed.