



Ninety-Seventh Legislature - Second Session - 2002  
**Introducer's Statement of Intent**  
**LB 982**

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**Chairperson:** Senator Ron Raikes  
**Committee:** Education  
**Date of Hearing:** February 12, 2002

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

The intent of LB 982 is to clarify Nebraska statutes regarding Americanism instruction. The bill amends Neb. Rev. Stat. §79-724 to state that all students shall be encouraged and have the opportunity to read and study America's founding documents. This change is an extension of existing state law. The bill cites specific examples of documents students shall have the opportunity to read, but schools are not limited to items just on that list. The State Department of Education shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to carry the intent of this bill out. Local control and the process of implementation of the curriculum would still be controlled by the local curriculum committees under the oversight of the Department of Education.

**Principal Introducer:**

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**Senator Philip Erdman**