



Ninety-Ninth Legislature - Second Session - 2006  
**Introducer's Statement of Intent**  
**LB 1203**

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**Chairperson:** Ron Raikes  
**Committee:** Education  
**Date of Hearing:** February 13, 2006

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

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LB 1203 creates the Civics Nebraska Partnership Council within the Nebraska Department of Education.

Under this act, the Council :

- helps ensure that civic education is a part of a well-rounded education for Nebraska students;
- helps improve the education of students on the importance of citizen involvement in a representative democracy;
- promotes the study of state and local government among the state's citizenry;
- enhances communication and collaboration among organizations in the state that conduct civic education programs; and
- assists schools in meeting their historic civic mission.

The Council's duties include:

- building a network of civic education professionals to share information and strengthen partnerships;
- supporting and coordinating an alignment of social studies curriculum, including civic education, at all levels of preschool, elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education;
- identifying civic education programs, projects, and resources in the state and provide technical assistance as may be necessary;
- making recommendations to the State Board of Education regarding standards for civic education; and
- making recommendations to the Legislature, the State Board of Education, and governing boards for the state's postsecondary educational institutions regarding policy as it relates to civic education.

The Council consists of 14 members, including:

- classroom teachers, one from each congressional district;
- a representative from each of the three branches of state government;

- a representative of NDE or the State Board of Education;
- a representative of the University of Nebraska system;
- a representative of a statewide nonprofit organization interested in civic education;
- a teacher education student;
- a high school student;
- a representative of local school administrators;
- a representative of a local school board; and
- one at-large member.

The Council may form subcommittees to carry out its work. The Council sunsets on June 30, 2010.

**Principal Introducer:**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Senator Elaine Stuhr**