

AMENDMENTS TO LB399

Introduced by Education.

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

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

5           79-724 It is the responsibility of society to ensure that youth are  
6 given the opportunity to become competent, responsible, patriotic, and  
7 civil citizens to ensure ~~An informed, loyal, just, and patriotic~~  
8 ~~citizenry is necessary to~~ a strong, stable, just, and prosperous America.  
9 Such a citizenry necessitates that every member thereof be fully literate  
10 about our ~~acquainted with the~~ nation's history, government, geography,  
11 and economic system. The youth in our state should be committed to the  
12 ideals and values of our country's democracy and the constitutional  
13 republic established by the people. Schools should help prepare our youth  
14 to make informed and reasoned decisions for the public good. Civic  
15 competence is necessary to sustain and improve our democratic way of life  
16 and must be taught in all public, private, denominational, and parochial  
17 schools. A central role of schools is to impart civic knowledge and  
18 skills that help our youth to see the relevance of a civic dimension for  
19 their lives. ~~Students should be made and that he or she be in full accord~~  
20 ~~with our form of government and~~ fully aware of the liberties,  
21 opportunities, and advantages we possess ~~of which we are possessed~~ and  
22 the sacrifices and struggles of those through whose efforts these  
23 benefits were gained. Since youth is the time people are most susceptible  
24 to the acceptance of principles and doctrines that will influence them  
25 ~~men and women~~ throughout their lives, it is one of the first duties of  
26 our educational system to conduct its activities, choose its textbooks,  
27 and arrange its curriculum in such a way that the youth of our state have

1 the opportunity to become competent, responsible, patriotic, and civil  
2 American citizens love of liberty, justice, democracy, and America will  
3 be instilled in the hearts and minds of the youth of the state.

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

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

10 (b) Keep minutes of each meeting showing the time and place of the  
11 meeting, which members were present or absent, and the substance and  
12 details of all matters discussed;

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

17 (d) Review and approve the social studies curriculum to ensure that  
18 it adequately stresses (a) Carefully examine, inspect, and approve all  
19 textbooks used in the teaching of American history and civil government  
20 in the school. Such textbooks shall adequately stress the services of the  
21 men and women who achieved our national independence, established our  
22 constitutional government, and preserved our union and is shall be so  
23 written to include the incorporation of multicultural education as set  
24 forth in sections 79-719 to 79-723 so contributions by ethnic groups as  
25 to develop a pride and respect for our institutions and not be a mere  
26 recital of events and dates;

27 (e) Ensure that any curriculum recommended or approved by the  
28 committee on American civics is made readily accessible to the public and  
29 contains a reference to this section;

30 (f) Ensure that the district develops and utilizes formative,  
31 interim, and summative assessments to measure student mastery of the

1 social studies standards adopted pursuant to section 79-760.01;

2 (g) Ensure that the social studies curriculum in the district  
3 incorporates one or more of the following for each student:

4 (i) Administration of a written test that is identical to the entire  
5 civics portion of the naturalization test used by United States  
6 Citizenship and Immigration Services prior to the completion of eighth  
7 grade and again prior to the completion of twelfth grade with the  
8 individual score from each test for each student made available to a  
9 parent or guardian of such student; or

10 (ii) Attendance or participation between the commencement of eighth  
11 grade and completion of twelfth grade in a meeting of a public body as  
12 defined by section 84-1409 followed by the completion of a project or  
13 paper in which each student demonstrates or discusses the personal  
14 learning experience of such student related to such attendance or  
15 participation; or

16 (iii) Completion of a project or paper and a class presentation  
17 between the commencement of eighth grade and the completion of twelfth  
18 grade on a person or persons or an event commemorated by a holiday listed  
19 in subdivision (6) of this section or on a topic related to such person  
20 or persons or event;

21 (h) ~~(b)~~ Assure themselves as to the character of all teachers  
22 employed and their knowledge and acceptance of the American form of  
23 government; and

24 (i) ~~(c)~~ Take all such other steps as will assure the carrying out of  
25 the provisions of this section and provide a report to the school board  
26 regarding the committee's findings and recommendations.

27 (2) All social studies ~~American history~~ courses approved for grade  
28 levels as provided by this section shall include and adequately stress  
29 contributions of all ethnic groups (a) to the development and growth of  
30 America into a great nation, (b) to art, music, education, medicine,  
31 literature, science, politics, and government, and (c) to the war

1 services in all wars of this nation.

2 (3) All grades of all public, private, denominational, and parochial  
3 schools, below the sixth grade, shall devote at least one hour per week  
4 to exercises or teaching periods for the following purpose:

5 (a) The discussion recital of stories having to do with American  
6 history or the deeds and exploits of American heroes;

7 (b) The historical background, memorization, and singing of  
8 patriotic songs such as and the insistence that every pupil memorize the  
9 Star-Spangled Banner and America the Beautiful; ~~and~~

10 (c) The development of respect reverence for the American flag as a  
11 symbol of freedom and the sacrifices of those who secured that freedom;  
12 and

13 (d) Instruction instruction as to proper conduct in the its  
14 presentation of the American flag.

15 (4) In at least two of the three grades from the fifth grade to the  
16 eighth grade in all public, private, denominational, and parochial  
17 schools, time at least three periods per week shall be set aside for to  
18 be devoted to the teaching of American history from the social studies  
19 curriculum approved textbooks, which shall be taught in such a way that  
20 all students are given the opportunity to (a) become competent,  
21 responsible, patriotic, and civil citizens who possess a deep  
22 understanding of and respect for the United States Constitution and the  
23 Constitution of Nebraska and (b) prepare to preserve, protect, and defend  
24 freedom and democracy in our nation and our world as to make the course  
25 interesting and attractive and to develop a love of country.

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

31 (a) The Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution,

1 ~~and the Constitution of Nebraska, and the structure and function of local~~  
2 ~~government in this state;~~

3 (b) The benefits and advantages of our form of government, ~~and the~~  
4 ~~rights and responsibilities of citizenship in our government, and the~~  
5 ~~dangers and fallacies of forms of government that restrict individual~~  
6 ~~freedoms or possess antidemocratic ideals such as, but not limited to,~~  
7 ~~Nazism and communism; dangers and fallacies of Nazism, Communism, and~~  
8 ~~similar ideologies; and~~

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

12 (d) The application of knowledge in civics, history, economics,  
13 financial literacy, and geography in order to address meaningful issues  
14 within our society.

15 (6) Appropriate patriotic exercises suitable to the occasion shall  
16 be held under the direction of the superintendent in every public,  
17 private, denominational, and parochial school on George Washington's  
18 birthday, Abraham Lincoln's birthday, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s  
19 birthday, Native American Heritage Day, Constitution Day, Memorial Day,  
20 Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving Day, or on the day or week ~~Lincoln's~~  
21 birthday, ~~Washington's birthday, Flag Day, Memorial Day, and Veterans~~  
22 Day, or on the day preceding or following such holiday, if the school is  
23 in session.

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

30 Sec. 2. Section 79-727, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is  
31 amended to read:

1           79-727   The State Board of Education shall adopt and promulgate  
2   rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of sections 79-724  
3   through 79-726. The State Department of Education shall ensure that all  
4   requirements of such sections and such rules and regulations are carried  
5   out by each school district ~~Any person violating the provisions of~~  
6   ~~sections 79-724 to 79-726 is guilty of a Class III misdemeanor.~~

7           Sec. 3.   Original sections 79-724 and 79-727, Reissue Revised  
8   Statutes of Nebraska, are repealed.