LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF IDAHO

Sixty-fourth Legislature First Regular Session - 2017

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 14

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND REQUESTING THAT THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION ADOPT RULES TO PROVIDE FOR IDAHO STATE GOVERNMENT AND IDAHO HISTORY QUESTIONS FOR THE CIVICS TEST GIVEN TO SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS STARTING WITH THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR.

Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

WHEREAS, in 2015 the Legislature passed Senate Bill No. 1071, as amended, which requires secondary school students to pass a civics test starting with the 2016-2017 school year and requires that school districts or public charter schools must use the 100 questions from the test taken by naturalized citizens or a test of their own design; and

WHEREAS, sadly, only 2 out of the 100 questions on the citizenship test relate specifically to Idaho government or history; and

WHEREAS, because we are citizens of both the United States and the sovereign State of Idaho, it seems appropriate that any such test should also contain questions relating to Idaho, as state and local governments are generally closest to the people; and

WHEREAS, we encourage the State Board of Education through rulemaking to add at least 25 questions, or at least 20% of the test, specifically relating to Idaho government and history to the civics test beginning with the 2017-2018 school year; and

WHEREAS, it is hoped that by adding these questions about Idaho government and history, teachers will be encouraged to teach more about Idaho's culture, history, diversity, beauty, resources and greatness.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Session of the Sixty-fourth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and the Senate concurring therein, that the State Board of Education is requested to adopt rules to provide that at least 25 questions, or at least 20% of the test, relating specifically to Idaho state government and history be included with the civics test beginning in the 2017-2018 school year, and we request that such rules allow school districts or public charter schools, if they conduct their own test, to develop their own questions, provided that at least 25 questions, or at least 20% of the test, is based on specific questions that relate to Idaho government and history.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Board of Education shall give a report to the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-fourth Idaho Legislature regarding the questions included in its rules and other matters relating to this important topic.