LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF IDAHO
Sixty-sixth Legislature Second Regular Session - 2022

IN THE SENATE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 115

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF STAND-
ALONE CIVICS STANDARDS FOR IDAHO ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY STUDENTS.

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

WHEREAS, civic engagement is the foundation of our nation's form of
democratic government; and
WHEREAS, participation in civic activities is essential to sustain our
form of government; and
WHEREAS, research shows that civic engagement has declined in the
United States in recent years; and
WHEREAS, civics education is essential in ensuring that students are
informed and effective citizens who understand their responsibilities and
rights; and
WHEREAS, public schools should promote students' knowledge and under-
standing of the foundational principles of the American system of govern-
ment, including the Constitution, rule of law, separation of powers, judicial
review, and federalism; and
WHEREAS, Section 33-1602, Idaho Code, requires that instruction in cit-
izenship shall be given in all elementary and secondary schools; and
WHEREAS, all secondary pupils must show they have met the state civics
and government standards through the successful completion of a civics exam-
ination in order to graduate; and
WHEREAS, national studies have found that Idaho's social studies and
civics standard should be strengthened to better prepare students to partic-
ipate in civic life; and
WHEREAS, Idaho's social studies standards, where current standards on
civics are incorporated, are scheduled for review and updates; and
WHEREAS, stand-alone civics standards would better support student un-
derstanding of our nation's system of government and the opportunities and
responsibilities of citizenship; and
WHEREAS, civics standards should emphasize the importance of an under-
standing of natural law as recognized by the American founders based on the
works of Cicero and John Locke, which philosophy underpins the Declaration
of Independence and the thinking of the founders.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Ses-
sion of the Sixty-sixth Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Repre-
sentatives concurring therein, that the Legislature does hereby resolve to
call upon the State Department of Education to work with a group of stake-
holders, including parents, educators, education organizations, and leg-
islators, to develop stand-alone standards for civics instruction that in-
clude the teaching of natural law in Idaho schools for consideration by the
State Board of Education and the Legislature.