

AMENDMENTS TO LB1069

Introduced by Brasch, 16.

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 a ~~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 ideas 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 fully aware of the liberties,  
20 opportunities, and advantages of which we are possessed and the  
21 sacrifices and struggles of those through whose efforts these benefits  
22 were gained and ~~that he or she be in full accord with our form of~~  
23 ~~government and fully aware of the liberties, opportunities, and~~  
24 ~~advantages of which we are possessed and the sacrifices and struggles of~~  
25 ~~those through whose efforts these benefits were gained.~~ Since youth is  
26 the time most susceptible to the acceptance of principles and doctrines  
27 that will influence men and women throughout their lives, it is one of

1 the first duties of our educational system to conduct its activities,  
2 choose its textbooks, and arrange its curriculum in such a way that the  
3 youth of our state become competent, responsible, patriotic, and civil  
4 American citizens ~~the love of liberty, justice, democracy, and America~~  
5 ~~will be instilled in the hearts and minds of the youth of the state.~~

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

10 (a) Hold no fewer than three public meetings annually, at least one  
11 where public testimony is accepted;

12 (b) Keep minutes of all meetings showing the time and place of the  
13 meeting, which members were present and absent, and the substance and  
14 details of all matters discussed;

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

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

30 (e) Ensure any curriculum that is recommended or approved by the  
31 committee on Americanism is made readily accessible to the public and

1 contains a reference to this section;

2 (f) Ensure the district develops and utilizes formative, interim,  
3 and summative assessments, including at a minimum, but not limited to,  
4 the civics portion of the naturalization examination administered by  
5 United States Citizenship and Immigration Services to measure student  
6 mastery of the social studies standards adopted pursuant to section  
7 79-760.01 administered no later than eighth grade and eleventh grade,  
8 with the individual score from such examination for each student made  
9 available to the parents or guardians of such student;

10 (g) ~~(b)~~ Assure themselves as to the character of all teachers  
11 employed and their knowledge and acceptance of the American form of  
12 government; and

13 (h) ~~(e)~~ Take all such other steps as will assure the carrying out of  
14 the provisions of this section and provide a report to the school board  
15 regarding the committee's findings and recommendations.

16 (2) All social studies ~~American history~~ courses approved for grade  
17 levels as provided by this section shall include and adequately stress  
18 contributions of all ethnic groups (a) to the development and growth of  
19 America into a great nation, (b) to art, music, education, medicine,  
20 literature, science, politics, and government, and (c) to the war  
21 services in all wars of this nation.

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

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

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

30 (c) The development of reverence for the flag and instruction as to  
31 proper conduct in its presentation.

1 (4) In at least two of the three grades from the fifth grade to the  
2 eighth grade in all public, private, denominational, and parochial  
3 schools, ~~time at least three periods per week~~ shall be set aside ~~for to~~  
4 ~~be devoted to~~ the teaching of American history from the social studies  
5 curriculum approved textbooks, which shall be taught in such a way that  
6 all students are given the opportunity to become competent, responsible,  
7 patriotic, and civil citizens who possess a deep understanding of the  
8 United States Constitution and the Constitution of Nebraska and be  
9 prepared to preserve, protect, and defend freedom and democracy in our  
10 nation and our world as to make the course interesting and attractive and  
11 to develop a love of country.

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

17 (a) The Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution,  
18 ~~and the Constitution of Nebraska, and the structure and function of local~~  
19 government in this state;

20 (b) The benefits and advantages of our form of government, and the  
21 rights and responsibilities of citizenship in our government, and the  
22 dangers and fallacies of forms of government that restrict individual  
23 freedoms or possess antidemocratic ideals such as, but not limited to,  
24 Nazism and communism; dangers and fallacies of Nazism, Communism, and  
25 similar ideologies; and

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

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

1           (6) Appropriate patriotic exercises suitable to the occasion shall  
2 be held under the direction of the superintendent in every public,  
3 private, denominational, and parochial school on George Washington's  
4 birthday, Abraham Lincoln's birthday, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s  
5 birthday, American Indian Day, Flag Day, Memorial Day, Veterans Day,  
6 Columbus Day, and Thanksgiving Day, or on the day or week Lincoln's  
7 birthday, Washington's birthday, Flag Day, Memorial Day, and Veterans  
8 Day, or on the day preceding or following such holiday, if the school is  
9 in session.

10           (7) Every school board, the State Board of Education, and the  
11 superintendent of each school district in the state shall be held  
12 directly responsible in the order named for carrying out this section,  
13 and neglect thereof by any employee or appointed official shall be  
14 considered a dereliction of duty and may be considered a cause for  
15 dismissal.

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

18           79-727 The State Board of Education shall adopt and promulgate  
19 rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of sections 79-724  
20 through 79-726. The State Department of Education shall ensure that all  
21 requirements of such sections and such rules and regulations are carried  
22 out by each school district. Any person violating the provisions of  
23 sections 79-724 to 79-726 is guilty of a Class III misdemeanor.

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