

House Bill 3140

Sponsored by Representatives FLORES, KRUMMEL; Representatives BOQUIST, CAMERON, DALLUM, GILLIAM, HANNA, MINNIS, THATCHER, WHISNANT

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Creates Commission on Civics Education. Prescribes duties.

Directs Department of Education to administer test to children in grade 6 on civics. Prescribes subject matter of test.

Directs Teacher Standards and Practices Commission to establish teaching license endorsement for civics education.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to civics education.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1. (1) There is created a Commission on Civics Education. The commission**
5 **shall consist of three members who are also members of the State Board of Education who**
6 **are appointed to the commission by the Governor.**

7 **(2) The term of office of each member is four years, but a member serves at the pleasure**
8 **of the Governor. Before the expiration of the term of a member, the Governor shall appoint**
9 **a successor whose term begins on July 1 next following. A member is eligible for reappoint-**
10 **ment. If there is a vacancy for any cause, the Governor shall make an appointment to be-**
11 **come immediately effective for the unexpired term.**

12 **(3) The commission shall select one of its members as chairperson, for such term and**
13 **with duties and powers necessary for the performance of the functions of the office as the**
14 **commission determines.**

15 **(4) A majority of the members of the commission constitutes a quorum for the trans-**
16 **action of business.**

17 **(5) The commission shall meet at times and places specified by the call of the chairperson**
18 **or of a majority of the members of the commission.**

19 **(6) The Department of Education shall provide staff support to the commission.**

20 **SECTION 2. Notwithstanding the term of office specified by section 1 of this 2007 Act,**
21 **of the members first appointed to the Commission on Civics Education:**

22 **(1) One shall serve for a term ending July 1, 2009.**

23 **(2) One shall serve for a term ending July 1, 2010.**

24 **(3) One shall serve for a term ending July 1, 2011.**

25 **SECTION 3. (1) The Commission on Civics Education shall provide advice to the State**
26 **Board of Education and the Department of Education on teaching civics in kindergarten**
27 **through grade 12 public schools.**

28 **(2) The commission shall advise school districts on:**

29 **(a) Providing instruction in government, history, law and democracy;**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 (b) Incorporating discussion of current local, national and international issues and events
2 into the classroom, particularly those issues and events that students view as important to
3 their lives;

4 (c) Designing and implementing programs that provide students with the opportunity to
5 apply what they learn through performing community service that is linked to the formal
6 curriculum and classroom instruction;

7 (d) Offering extracurricular activities that provide opportunities for students to get in-
8 volved in their schools and communities;

9 (e) Encouraging student participation in school governance; and

10 (f) Encouraging student participation in simulations of democratic processes and proce-
11 dures.

12 **SECTION 4.** (1) During the 2007-2008 school year, the Department of Education shall test
13 a random sample of 10,000 or more students who are in grade 6 in an Oregon public school.

14 (2) The department shall contract for a multiple-choice test to determine how well the
15 students know the basic concepts of:

16 (a) The United States Constitution, including the Bill of Rights;

17 (b) The structure of the United States government;

18 (c) How a bill becomes law;

19 (d) How the court system works and the rights of the children within the court system;

20 (e) The United States flag;

21 (f) The geography of the United States; and

22 (g) State names and locations.

23 (3) Prior to October 1, 2008, the department shall report the results of the test to the
24 Commission on Civics Education and the legislative interim committees related to education.

25 **SECTION 5.** Section 6 of this 2007 Act is added to and made a part of ORS 342.120 to
26 342.430.

27 **SECTION 6.** (1) The Teacher Standards and Practices Commission shall establish an
28 endorsement for civics education that may be added to a teaching license.

29 (2) The commission shall establish the requirements for the endorsement and the con-
30 tinuing education requirements for renewal of the endorsement.

31