

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass
<b>Vote:</b>	10 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Dembrow, Harker, Huffman, Komp, Maurer, Roblan, Sprenger, Thatcher, VanOrman, Gelser
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Kevin T. Christiansen, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	5/18

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Declares first Friday in December as Oregon Civics Day for Teachers. Urges school districts to encourage teachers to participate in professional development opportunities focused on civics that day. Declares an emergency; effective July 1, 2009.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Need for greater emphasis on civics in classrooms
- Providing greater civics background to educators

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** Governor Kulongoski proclaimed Friday, December 5, 2008 as Civics Education Day. The proclamation stated that two-thirds of schoolchildren scored below proficient in their knowledge of civics and government. Additionally, a 2006 survey found that Oregon students averaged a grade of "D" on their knowledge of government. Senate Bill 374 urges school districts to encourage professional development opportunities focused on civics on the first Friday in each December.