

A-Engrossed
House Joint Resolution 36

Ordered by the House April 5
Including House Amendments dated April 5

Sponsored by Representative WHISNANT, Senator BONAMICI; Representatives FREEMAN, HUFFMAN, MCLANE, THATCHER

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.

Urges school districts to require students to [*successfully complete course in civics education*] **become proficient in civics and government by successfully completing course in, or otherwise demonstrating proficiency in, civics and government** prior to graduation from high school.

JOINT RESOLUTION

1
2 Whereas an informed and capable citizenry is vital to the preservation of a free and democratic
3 government; and

4 Whereas schools have a clear civic mission to prepare students for life in their communities and
5 in our democratic society; and

6 Whereas 29 states require high school students to take a course in government; and

7 Whereas a 2003 report by the National Conference of State Legislatures revealed that students
8 who had a course in civics or American government were two or three times more likely to engage
9 in civic activities and more likely to believe that they are personally responsible for making things
10 better in society; and

11 Whereas a 2006 study of students without civic education showed that less than a third of eighth
12 graders could identify the historic purpose of the Declaration of Independence and less than a fifth
13 of high school seniors could explain how citizen participation benefits democracy; and

14 Whereas school districts should provide a one-half credit course in civics and government edu-
15 cation or should otherwise provide students with an opportunity to become proficient in civics and
16 government; and

17 Whereas school districts should consider using nonprofit organizations as a source of free civics
18 and government education curricula; now, therefore,

19 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

20 That we, the members of the Seventy-sixth Legislative Assembly, urge school districts to require
21 students to become proficient in civics and government by successfully completing a course in civics
22 and government education or by otherwise demonstrating proficiency in civics and government prior
23 to graduation.

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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.