

House Joint Resolution 14

Sponsored by Representatives WHISNANT, MCLAIN, HACK

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**.

Directs Chief Education Office to work with Department of Education and school district boards to ensure that school districts provide quality civics education. Directs office to summarize efforts to improve civics education.

JOINT RESOLUTION

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Whereas the foundation of our democratic system is an informed and engaged electorate; and
Whereas public trust of all levels of government is on the decline, in part because people are inherently distrustful of anything that they do not understand; and
Whereas civics education is critical to providing the next generation of citizens with the skills and knowledge they need to carry on our democratic system and be successful in the 21st century workforce; and
Whereas public schools serve an important role in helping young people across the nation and this state gain the skills and knowledge they need to participate in civic activities; and
Whereas civics education is often put aside as more emphasis is placed on subjects covered by standardized testing and on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM); and
Whereas the democratic system is built on the assumption that every citizen equally possesses the right to participate in the decision-making processes of the government; and
Whereas every state is unique and has a different path for engaging citizens and improving civic education; and
Whereas there is a growing need for states to reestablish civics education as a priority for our public school students in kindergarten through grade 12; now, therefore,
Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:
That the Chief Education Office shall work with the Department of Education and school district boards to ensure that school districts provide quality civics education to all public school students to enable the students to have a better understanding of the roles and capabilities of government; and be it further
Resolved, That the Chief Education Office shall summarize for the committees of the Legislative Assembly related to education all efforts to improve civics education no later than July 1, 2017.

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.