

**First Regular Session
Seventy-second General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 19-0237.01 Brita Darling x2241

HOUSE BILL 19-1139

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Carver,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

House Committees
Education

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING AN AMERICAN CIVICS COURSE OF STUDY OPTION IN**
102 **PUBLIC SCHOOLS.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

The bill authorizes a public school, in kindergarten through eighth grade, to choose an American civics course of study option to meet or exceed the Colorado academic standards adopted by the state board of education for civics education.

The bill lists the topics relating to the United States' and Colorado's systems of government that are included in an American civics course of

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

study option and describes the use of comparative analysis when studying other countries' systems of government.

A public school is encouraged to use the community forum process for community input on civics education currently in law to inform the content of an American civics course of study option.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-1-104, **add** (2.5)
3 as follows:

4 **22-1-104. Teaching of history, culture, and civil government.**

5 (2.5) (a) PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN COLORADO ARE REQUIRED TO MEET OR
6 EXCEED STATE ACADEMIC STANDARDS ADOPTED BY THE STATE BOARD
7 PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-7-1005 IN CIVICS AND OTHER ACADEMIC
8 CONTENT AREAS. PUBLIC SCHOOLS HAVE THE OPTION OF MEETING AND
9 EXCEEDING THE COLORADO ACADEMIC STANDARDS IN CIVICS FOR
10 KINDERGARTEN THROUGH EIGHTH GRADE THROUGH AN AMERICAN CIVICS
11 COURSE OF STUDY OPTION THAT EMPHASIZES, AT A MINIMUM,
12 COMPREHENSION OF FOUNDATIONAL FACTUAL KNOWLEDGE IN THE
13 FOLLOWING AREAS:

14 (I) HISTORY AND ORIGIN OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION
15 AND BILL OF RIGHTS;

16 (II) THE STRUCTURE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE THREE
17 BRANCHES OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND OUR SYSTEM OF CHECKS
18 AND BALANCES TO PREVENT ABUSE OF POWER;

19 (III) FEDERALISM AND THE ROLE OF THE STATES;

20 (IV) INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS THAT ARE PROTECTED IN THE BILL OF
21 RIGHTS FROM ENCROACHMENT BY THE FEDERAL AND STATE
22 GOVERNMENTS;

23 (V) THE STRUCTURE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF COLORADO'S THREE

1 BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT;
2 (VI) THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION; AND
3 (VII) THE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF UNITED STATES
4 CITIZENSHIP IN OUR CONSTITUTIONAL, REPRESENTATIVE FEDERAL SYSTEM
5 OF GOVERNMENT.

6 (b) IF THE COLORADO ACADEMIC STANDARDS IN CIVICS FOR
7 KINDERGARTEN THROUGH EIGHTH GRADE REQUIRE THE STUDY OF
8 GOVERNMENT SYSTEMS IN OTHER COUNTRIES, PUBLIC SCHOOLS THAT
9 CHOOSE TO IMPLEMENT AN AMERICAN CIVICS COURSE OF STUDY OPTION
10 SHOULD INCLUDE A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE FOREIGN COUNTRY'S
11 SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT AND THE UNITED STATES' SYSTEM OF
12 GOVERNMENT, COMPARING THE ROLE OF AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY,
13 INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS, AND LIMITS ON GOVERNMENTAL POWER.

14 (c) THE PUBLIC SCHOOL IS ENCOURAGED, BUT IS NOT REQUIRED, TO
15 SEEK INPUT FROM THE COMMUNITY FORUM CONVENED PURSUANT TO
16 SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS SECTION CONCERNING THE AMERICAN CIVICS
17 COURSE OF STUDY OPTION DESCRIBED IN THIS SUBSECTION (2.5).

18 **SECTION 2. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
19 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
20 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
21 2, 2019, if adjournment sine die is on May 3, 2019); except that, if a
22 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
23 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
24 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
25 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
26 November 2020 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
27 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.