

AMENDMENTS TO LB14

Introduced by Krist, 10.

1 1. Strike the original section and insert the following new
2 sections:

3 Section 1. Section 79-724, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
4 amended to read:

5 79-724 It is the responsibility of society to ensure that young
6 people become competent and responsible citizens ~~An informed, loyal,~~
7 ~~just, and patriotic citizenry is necessary to a strong, stable, just, and~~
8 ~~prosperous America.~~ Such a citizenry necessitates that every member
9 thereof be fully literate about our ~~acquainted with the~~ nation's history,
10 government, geography, and economic system. Young people in our state
11 should be committed to the ideas and values of our country's democracy
12 and the constitutional republic established by the people. Schools should
13 help prepare young people to make informed and reasoned decisions for the
14 public good. Civic competence is necessary to sustain and improve our
15 democratic way of life and must be taught in our schools. A central role
16 of schools is to impart civic knowledge and skills that help young people
17 to see the relevance of a civic dimension for their lives and that he or
18 ~~she be in full accord with our form of government and fully aware of the~~
19 ~~liberties, opportunities, and advantages of which we are possessed and~~
20 ~~the sacrifices and struggles of those through whose efforts these~~
21 ~~benefits were gained.~~ Since youth is the time most susceptible to the
22 acceptance of principles and doctrines that will influence men and women
23 throughout their lives, it is one of the first duties of our educational
24 system to conduct its activities, choose its textbooks, and arrange its
25 curriculum in such a way that young people of our state become informed
26 and responsible citizens ~~the love of liberty, justice, democracy, and~~
27 ~~America will be instilled in the hearts and minds of the youth of the~~

1 state.

2 (1) Every school board of a school district shall, at the beginning
3 of each school year, appoint from its members a committee of three, to be
4 known as the committee on American Civic Competence and Engagement
5 ~~Americanism~~. The committee ~~on Americanism~~ shall:

6 (a) Carefully examine and ensure that the social studies curriculum
7 used in the district is aligned to the social studies standards adopted
8 pursuant to section 79-760.01 and teaches and assesses foundational
9 knowledge in civics, history, economics, and geography;

10 (b) Ensure that the social studies curriculum adequately stresses ~~r~~
11 ~~inspect, and approve all textbooks used in the teaching of American~~
12 ~~history and civil government in the school. Such textbooks shall~~
13 ~~adequately stress~~ the services of the men and women who achieved our
14 national independence, established our constitutional government, and
15 preserved our union and is shall ~~be~~ so written to include the
16 incorporation of multicultural education as set forth in sections 79-719
17 to 79-723 so contributions by ethnic groups as to develop a pride and
18 respect for our institutions and not be a mere recital of events and
19 dates;

20 (c) Ensure that the district develops and utilizes formative,
21 interim, and summative assessments, including, but not limited to, the
22 one-hundred-question civics portion of the naturalization exam
23 administered by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, to
24 determine student mastery of the social studies standards adopted
25 pursuant to section 79-760.01;

26 (d) Ensure that the social studies curriculum utilizes instructional
27 practices that support quality instruction in social studies education,
28 including discussion of current events and controversial issues, service
29 learning, simulations of democratic processes, classroom-based
30 extracurricular activities, school governance, and field trips;

31 (e) Ensure that ~~(b) Assure themselves as to the character of all~~

1 teachers employed by the district are properly certified to teach social
2 studies and their knowledge and acceptance of the American form of
3 government; and

4 (f) ~~(e)~~ Take all such other steps as will assure the carrying out of
5 the provisions of this section and provide a report to the school board
6 regarding the committee's findings and recommendations.

7 (2) All social studies ~~American history~~ courses approved for grade
8 levels as provided by this section shall include and adequately stress
9 contributions of all ethnic groups (a) to the development and growth of
10 America into a great nation, (b) to art, music, education, medicine,
11 literature, science, politics, and government, and (c) to the war
12 services in all wars of this nation.

13 (3) All grades of all public, private, denominational, and parochial
14 schools, below the sixth grade, shall devote at least one hour per week
15 to exercises or teaching periods for the following purpose:

16 (a) The discussion ~~recital~~ of stories having to do with American
17 history or the deeds and exploits of American heroes;

18 (b) The historical background and singing of patriotic songs such as
19 ~~and the insistence that every pupil memorize~~ the Star-Spangled Banner and
20 America; and

21 (c) The development of reverence for the flag and instruction as to
22 proper conduct in its presentation.

23 (4) In at least two of the three grades from the fifth grade to the
24 eighth grade in all public, private, denominational, and parochial
25 schools, time at least three periods per week shall be set aside for to
26 ~~be devoted to~~ the teaching of American history from the social studies
27 curriculum approved textbooks, which shall be taught in such a way that
28 all students will become responsible citizens who possess a deep
29 understanding of our Constitution and be prepared to preserve, protect,
30 and defend freedom and democracy in our nation and our world as to make
31 ~~the course interesting and attractive and to develop a love of country.~~

1 (5) In at least two courses in grades of every high school, time at
2 least three periods per week shall be devoted to the teaching of civics
3 and American history as outlined in the social studies standards adopted
4 pursuant to section 79-760.01, during which ~~courses~~ specific attention
5 shall be given to the following matters:

6 (a) The United States Constitution, ~~and~~ the Constitution of
7 Nebraska, and the structure and function of local government in this
8 state;

9 (b) The benefits and advantages of our form of government and the
10 rights and responsibilities of citizenship in our government; dangers and
11 fallacies of Nazism, Communism, and similar ideologies; and

12 (c) The duties of citizenship, including active participation in the
13 improvement of a citizen's community, state, country, and world and the
14 value and practice of civil discourse between opposing interests; and -

15 (d) The application of knowledge in civics, history, economics, and
16 geography in order to address meaningful issues within our society.

17 (6) Appropriate patriotic exercises suitable to the occasion shall
18 be held under the direction of the superintendent in every public,
19 private, denominational, and parochial school on the birthdays of George
20 Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., along with
21 American Indian Day Lincoln's birthday, Washington's birthday, Flag Day,
22 Memorial Day, and Veterans Day, or on the day preceding or following such
23 holiday, if the school is in session.

24 (7) The Every school board, the State Board of Education may adopt
25 and promulgate rules and regulations to carry , and the superintendent of
26 each school district in the state shall be held directly responsible in
27 the order named for carrying out this section, and neglect thereof by any
28 employee or appointed official shall be considered a dereliction of duty
29 and cause for dismissal.

30 Sec. 2. Original section 79-724, Reissue Revised Statutes of
31 Nebraska, is repealed.

- 1 Sec. 3. The following section is outright repealed: Section 79-727,
- 2 Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska.