

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3195

To amend part F of title X of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to improve and refocus civic education, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 2, 1999

Mr. KILDEE (for himself and Mr. CASTLE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on International Relations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend part F of title X of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to improve and refocus civic education, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Education for Democ-

5 racy Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. CIVIC EDUCATION.**

2 Part F of title X of the Elementary and Secondary
3 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 8141 et seq.) is amend-
4 ed to read as follows:

5 **“PART F—CIVIC EDUCATION**

6 **“SEC. 10601. SHORT TITLE.**

7 “This part may be cited as the ‘Education for De-
8 mocracy Act’.

9 **“SEC. 10602. FINDINGS.**

10 “The Congress finds that—

11 “(1) college freshmen surveyed in 1997 by the
12 Higher Education Research Institute at the Univer-
13 sity of California at Los Angeles demonstrated high-
14 er levels of disengagement, both academically and
15 politically, than any previous entering class of stu-
16 dents;

17 “(2) college freshmen in 1997 demonstrated the
18 lowest levels of political interest in the 20-year his-
19 tory of surveys conducted by the Higher Education
20 Research Institute at the University of California at
21 Los Angeles;

22 “(3) United States secondary school students
23 expressed relatively low levels of interest in politics
24 and economics in a 1999 Harris survey;

25 “(4) the 28th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup
26 Poll in 1996 indicated that American citizens believe

1 that the Nation’s schools, apart from providing a
2 basic education, had a very important role to play in
3 preparing students to be responsible citizens;

4 “(5) Americans surveyed by the Organization of
5 Economic Cooperation and Development indicated
6 that only 59 percent had confidence that schools
7 have a major effect on the development of good citi-
8 zenship;

9 “(6) teachers too often do not have sufficient
10 expertise in the subjects that they teach, and half of
11 all secondary school history students in America are
12 being taught by teachers with neither a major nor
13 a minor in history;

14 “(7) secondary school students correctly an-
15 swered less than half of the questions on a national
16 test of economic knowledge in a 1999 Harris survey;

17 “(8) the most recent National Assessment of
18 Educational Progress indicated that students have
19 only superficial knowledge of, and lacked a depth of
20 understanding regarding, civics;

21 “(9) civic and economic education are impor-
22 tant not only to developing citizenship competencies
23 in the United States but also are critical to sup-
24 porting political stability and economic health in

1 other democracies, particularly emerging democratic
2 market economies;

3 “(10) international education exchange pro-
4 grams in civic and economic education have been
5 shown to enhance both educational reform efforts in
6 other democracies and educational quality in United
7 States classrooms;

8 “(11) more than three quarters of Americans
9 surveyed by the National Constitution Center in
10 1997 admitted that they knew only some or very lit-
11 tle about the Constitution of the United States; and

12 “(12) the Constitution of the United States is
13 too often viewed within the context of history and
14 not as a living document that shapes current events.

15 **“SEC. 10603. PURPOSE.**

16 “It is the purpose of this part—

17 “(1) to improve the quality of civics and gov-
18 ernment education, and to enhance the attainment
19 of the third and sixth National Education Goals, by
20 educating students about the history and principles
21 of the Constitution of the United States, including
22 the Bill of Rights;

23 “(2) to foster civic competence and responsi-
24 bility; and

1 “(3) to improve the quality of civic education
2 and economic education through cooperative civic
3 education and economic education exchange pro-
4 grams with other democratic nations.

5 **“SEC. 10604. GENERAL AUTHORITY.**

6 “(a) GRANTS AND CONTRACTS.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized
8 to award grants to or enter into contracts with—

9 “(A) the Center for Civic Education to
10 carry out civic education activities under sec-
11 tions 10605 and 10606; and

12 “(B) the National Council on Economic
13 Education to carry out economic education ac-
14 tivities under section 10606.

15 “(2) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall
16 award the grants and contracts under section 10606
17 in consultation with the Secretary of State.

18 “(b) DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary shall use not
19 more than 50 percent of the amount appropriated under
20 section 10607(b) for each fiscal year to carry out economic
21 education activities under section 10606.

22 **“SEC. 10605. WE THE PEOPLE PROGRAM.**

23 “(a) THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Center for Civic Edu-
25 cation shall use funds awarded under section

1 10604(a)(1)(A) to carry out The Citizen and the
2 Constitution program in accordance with this sub-
3 section.

4 “(2) EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES.—The Citizen
5 and the Constitution program—

6 “(A) shall continue and expand the edu-
7 cational activities of the ‘We the People . . .
8 The Citizen and the Constitution’ program ad-
9 ministered by the Center for Civic Education;

10 “(B) shall enhance student attainment of
11 challenging content standards in civics and gov-
12 ernment; and

13 “(C) shall provide—

14 “(i) a course of instruction on the
15 basic principles of our Nation’s constitu-
16 tional democracy and the history of the
17 Constitution of the United States and the
18 Bill of Rights;

19 “(ii) at the request of a participating
20 school, school and community simulated
21 congressional hearings following the course
22 of study;

23 “(iii) an annual national competition
24 of simulated congressional hearings for

1 secondary school students who wish to par-
2 ticipate in such a program;

3 “(iv) advanced training of teachers
4 about the Constitution of the United
5 States and the political system the United
6 States created;

7 “(v) materials and methods of instruc-
8 tion, including teacher training, that utilize
9 the latest advancements in educational
10 technology; and

11 “(vi) civic education materials and
12 services to address specific problems such
13 as the prevention of school violence and the
14 abuse of drugs and alcohol.

15 “(3) AVAILABILITY OF PROGRAM.—The edu-
16 cation program authorized under this subsection
17 shall be made available to public and private elemen-
18 tary schools and secondary schools, including Bu-
19 reau funded schools, in the 435 congressional dis-
20 tricts, and in the District of Columbia, the Common-
21 wealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Is-
22 lands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Common-
23 wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

24 “(b) PROJECT CITIZEN.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Center for Civic Edu-
2 cation shall use funds awarded under section
3 10604(a)(1)(A) to carry out The Project Citizen
4 program in accordance with this subsection.

5 “(2) EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES.—The Project
6 Citizen program—

7 “(A) shall continue and expand the edu-
8 cational activities of the ‘We the People . . .
9 Project Citizen’ program administered by the
10 Center for Civic Education;

11 “(B) shall enhance student attainment of
12 challenging content standards in civics and gov-
13 ernment; and

14 “(C) shall provide—

15 “(i) a course of instruction at the
16 middle school level on the roles of State
17 and local governments in the Federal sys-
18 tem established by the Constitution of the
19 United States;

20 “(ii) optional school and community
21 simulated State legislative hearings;

22 “(iii) an annual national showcase or
23 competition;

24 “(iv) advanced training of teachers on
25 the roles of State and local governments in

1 the Federal system established by the Con-
2 stitution of the United States;

3 “(v) materials and methods of instruc-
4 tion, including teacher training, that utilize
5 the latest advancements in educational
6 technology; and

7 “(vi) civic education materials and
8 services to address specific problems such
9 as the prevention of school violence and the
10 abuse of drugs and alcohol.

11 “(3) AVAILABILITY OF PROGRAM.—The edu-
12 cation program authorized under this subsection
13 shall be made available to public and private middle
14 schools, including Bureau funded schools, in the 50
15 States of the United States, the District of Colum-
16 bia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United
17 States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and
18 the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Is-
19 lands.

20 “(c) DEFINITION OF BUREAU FUNDED SCHOOL.—
21 In this section the term ‘Bureau funded school’ has the
22 meaning given the term in section 1146 of the Education
23 Amendments of 1978.

1 **“SEC. 10606. COOPERATIVE CIVIC EDUCATION AND ECO-**
2 **NOMIC EDUCATION EXCHANGE PROGRAMS.**

3 “(a) COOPERATIVE EDUCATION EXCHANGE PRO-
4 GRAMS.—The Center for Civic Education and the National
5 Council on Economic Education shall use funds awarded
6 under section 10604(a)(1) to carry out Cooperative Edu-
7 cation Exchange programs in accordance with this section.

8 “(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Cooperative
9 Education Exchange programs provided under this section
10 shall be to—

11 “(1) make available to educators from eligible
12 countries exemplary curriculum and teacher training
13 programs in civics and government education, and
14 economics education, developed in the United States;

15 “(2) assist eligible countries in the adaptation,
16 implementation, and institutionalization of such pro-
17 grams;

18 “(3) create and implement civics and govern-
19 ment education, and economic education, programs
20 for students that draw upon the experiences of the
21 participating eligible countries;

22 “(4) provide a means for the exchange of ideas
23 and experiences in civics and government education,
24 and economic education, among political, edu-
25 cational, governmental, and private sector leaders of
26 participating eligible countries; and

1 “(5) provide support for—

2 “(A) research and evaluation to determine
3 the effects of educational programs on students’
4 development of the knowledge, skills, and traits
5 of character essential for the preservation and
6 improvement of constitutional democracy; and

7 “(B) effective participation in and the
8 preservation and improvement of an efficient
9 market economy.

10 “(c) AVOIDANCE OF DUPLICATION.—The Secretary
11 shall consult with the Secretary of State to ensure that—

12 “(1) activities under this section are not dupli-
13 cative of other efforts in the eligible countries; and

14 “(2) partner institutions in the eligible coun-
15 tries are creditable.

16 “(d) ACTIVITIES.—The Cooperative Education Ex-
17 change programs shall—

18 “(1) provide eligible countries with—

19 “(A) seminars on the basic principles of
20 United States constitutional democracy and ec-
21 onomics, including seminars on the major gov-
22 ernmental and economic institutions and sys-
23 tems in the United States, and visits to such in-
24 stitutions;

1 “(B) visits to school systems, institutions
2 of higher education, and nonprofit organizations
3 conducting exemplary programs in civics and
4 government education, and economic education,
5 in the United States;

6 “(C) translations and adaptations regard-
7 ing United States civic and government edu-
8 cation, and economic education, curricular pro-
9 grams for students and teachers, and in the
10 case of training programs for teachers trans-
11 lations and adaptations into forms useful in
12 schools in eligible countries, and joint research
13 projects in such areas;

14 “(D) research and evaluation assistance to
15 determine—

16 “(i) the effects of the Cooperative
17 Education Exchange programs on stu-
18 dents’ development of the knowledge,
19 skills, and traits of character essential for
20 the preservation and improvement of con-
21 stitutional democracy; and

22 “(ii) effective participation in and the
23 preservation and improvement of an effi-
24 cient market economy;

25 “(2) provide United States participants with—

1 “(A) seminars on the histories, economies,
2 and systems of government of eligible countries;

3 “(B) visits to school systems, institutions
4 of higher education, and organizations con-
5 ducting exemplary programs in civics and gov-
6 ernment education, and economic education, lo-
7 cated in eligible countries;

8 “(C) assistance from educators and schol-
9 ars in eligible countries in the development of
10 curricular materials on the history, government,
11 and economy of such countries that are useful
12 in United States classrooms;

13 “(D) opportunities to provide onsite dem-
14 onstrations of United States curricula and ped-
15 agogy for educational leaders in eligible coun-
16 tries; and

17 “(E) research and evaluation assistance to
18 determine—

19 “(i) the effects of the Cooperative
20 Education Exchange programs on stu-
21 dents’ development of the knowledge,
22 skills, and traits of character essential for
23 the preservation and improvement of con-
24 stitutional democracy; and

1 “(ii) effective participation in and im-
2 provement of an efficient market economy;
3 and

4 “(3) assist participants from eligible countries
5 and the United States to participate in international
6 conferences on civics and government education, and
7 economic education, for educational leaders, teacher
8 trainers, scholars in related disciplines, and edu-
9 cational policymakers.

10 “(e) PARTICIPANTS.—The primary participants in
11 the Cooperative Education Exchange programs assisted
12 under this section shall be educational leaders in the areas
13 of civics and government education, and economic edu-
14 cation, including curriculum and teacher training special-
15 ists, scholars in relevant disciplines, and educational pol-
16 icymakers, and government and private sector leaders
17 from the United States and eligible countries.

18 “(f) DEFINITION.—For the purpose of this section,
19 the term ‘eligible country’ means a Central European
20 country, an Eastern European country, Lithuania, Latvia,
21 Estonia, the independent states of the former Soviet
22 Union as defined in section 3 of the FREEDOM Support
23 Act (22 U.S.C. 5801), and may include the Republic of
24 Ireland, the province of Northern Ireland in the United
25 Kingdom, and any developing country, as defined in sec-

1 tion 209(d) of the Education for the Deaf Act, that has
2 a democratic form of government as determined by the
3 Secretary in consultation with the Secretary of State.

4 **“SEC. 10607. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

5 “(a) SECTION 10605.—There are authorized to be
6 appropriated to carry out section 10605, \$10,000,000 for
7 fiscal year 2000 and such sums as may be necessary for
8 each of the fiscal years 2001 through 2004.

9 “(b) SECTION 10606.—There are authorized to be
10 appropriated to carry out section 10606, \$10,000,000 for
11 fiscal year 2000 and such sums as may be necessary for
12 each of the fiscal years 2001 through 2004.”.

13 **SEC. 3. REPEAL.**

14 Title VI of the Goals 2000: Educate America Act (20
15 U.S.C. 5951 et seq.) is repealed.

