

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1642

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 SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 27, 1999

Mr. COCHRAN (for himself and Mr. DODD) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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”.

6 **SEC. 2. CIVIC EDUCATION.**

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

1 **“PART F—CIVIC EDUCATION**

2 **“SEC. 10601. SHORT TITLE.**

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

5 **“SEC. 10602. FINDINGS.**

6 “‘The Congress finds that—

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

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

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

21 “(4) the 28th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup
22 Poll in 1996 indicated that American citizens believe
23 that the Nation’s schools, apart from providing a
24 basic education, had a very important role to play in
25 preparing students to be responsible citizens;

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

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

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

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

18 “(9) civic and economic education are impor-
19 tant not only to developing citizenship competencies
20 in the United States but also are critical to sup-
21 porting political stability and economic health in
22 other democracies, particularly emerging democratic
23 market economies;

24 “(10) international education exchange pro-
25 grams in civic and economic education have been

1 shown to enhance both educational reform efforts in
2 other democracies and educational quality in United
3 States classrooms;

4 “(11) more than three quarters of Americans
5 surveyed by the National Constitution Center in
6 1997 admitted that they knew only some or very lit-
7 tle about the Constitution of the United States; and

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

11 **“SEC. 10603. PURPOSE.**

12 “It is the purpose of this part—

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

19 “(2) to foster civic competence and responsi-
20 bility; and

21 “(3) to improve the quality of civic education
22 and economic education through cooperative civic
23 education and economic education exchange pro-
24 grams with other democratic nations.

1 **“SEC. 10604. GENERAL AUTHORITY.**

2 “(a) GRANTS AND CONTRACTS.—

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

5 “(A) the Center for Civic Education to
6 carry out civic education activities under sec-
7 tions 10605 and 10606; and

8 “(B) the National Council on Economic
9 Education to carry out economic education ac-
10 tivities under section 10606.

11 “(2) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall
12 award the grants and contracts under section 10606
13 in consultation with the Secretary of State.

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

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

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

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Center for Civic Edu-
21 cation shall use funds awarded under section
22 10604(a)(1)(A) to carry out The Citizen and the
23 Constitution program in accordance with this sub-
24 section.

25 “(2) EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES.—The Citizen
26 and the Constitution program—

1 “(A) shall continue and expand the edu-
2 cational activities of the ‘We the People . . .
3 The Citizen and the Constitution’ program ad-
4 ministered by the Center for Civic Education;

5 “(B) shall enhance student attainment of
6 challenging content standards in civics and gov-
7 ernment; and

8 “(C) shall provide—

9 “(i) a course of instruction on the
10 basic principles of our Nation’s constitu-
11 tional democracy and the history of the
12 Constitution of the United States and the
13 Bill of Rights;

14 “(ii) at the request of a participating
15 school, school and community simulated
16 congressional hearings following the course
17 of study;

18 “(iii) an annual national competition
19 of simulated congressional hearings for
20 secondary school students who wish to par-
21 ticipate in such a program;

22 “(iv) advanced training of teachers
23 about the Constitution of the United
24 States and the political system the United
25 States created;

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

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

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

18 “(b) PROJECT CITIZEN.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Center for Civic Edu-
 20 cation shall use funds awarded under section
 21 10604(a)(1)(A) to carry out The Project Citizen
 22 program in accordance with this subsection.

23 “(2) EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES.—The Project
 24 Citizen program—

1 “(A) shall continue and expand the edu-
2 cational activities of the ‘We the People . . .
3 Project Citizen’ program administered by the
4 Center for Civic Education;

5 “(B) shall enhance student attainment of
6 challenging content standards in civics and gov-
7 ernment; and

8 “(C) shall provide—

9 “(i) a course of instruction at the
10 middle school level on the roles of State
11 and local governments in the Federal sys-
12 tem established by the Constitution of the
13 United States;

14 “(ii) optional school and community
15 simulated State legislative hearings;

16 “(iii) an annual national showcase or
17 competition;

18 “(iv) advanced training of teachers on
19 the roles of State and local governments in
20 the Federal system established by the Con-
21 stitution of the United States;

22 “(v) materials and methods of instruc-
23 tion, including teacher training, that utilize
24 the latest advancements in educational
25 technology; and

1 “(vi) civic education materials and
 2 services to address specific problems such
 3 as the prevention of school violence and the
 4 abuse of drugs and alcohol.

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

14 “(c) DEFINITION OF BUREAU FUNDED SCHOOL.—
 15 In this section the term ‘Bureau funded school’ has the
 16 meaning given the term in section 1146 of the Education
 17 Amendments of 1978.

18 **“SEC. 10606. COOPERATIVE CIVIC EDUCATION AND ECO-**
 19 **NOMIC EDUCATION EXCHANGE PROGRAMS.**

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

1 “(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Cooperative
2 Education Exchange programs provided under this section
3 shall be to—

4 “(1) make available to educators from eligible
5 countries exemplary curriculum and teacher training
6 programs in civics and government education, and
7 economics education, developed in the United States;

8 “(2) assist eligible countries in the adaptation,
9 implementation, and institutionalization of such pro-
10 grams;

11 “(3) create and implement civics and govern-
12 ment education, and economic education, programs
13 for students that draw upon the experiences of the
14 participating eligible countries;

15 “(4) provide a means for the exchange of ideas
16 and experiences in civics and government education,
17 and economic education, among political, edu-
18 cational, governmental, and private sector leaders of
19 participating eligible countries; and

20 “(5) provide support for—

21 “(A) research and evaluation to determine
22 the effects of educational programs on students’
23 development of the knowledge, skills, and traits
24 of character essential for the preservation and
25 improvement of constitutional democracy; and

1 “(B) effective participation in and the
2 preservation and improvement of an efficient
3 market economy.

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

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

8 “(2) partner institutions in the eligible coun-
9 tries are creditable.

10 “(d) ACTIVITIES.—The Cooperative Education Ex-
11 change programs shall—

12 “(1) provide eligible countries with—

13 “(A) seminars on the basic principles of
14 United States constitutional democracy and ec-
15 onomics, including seminars on the major gov-
16 ernmental and economic institutions and sys-
17 tems in the United States, and visits to such in-
18 stitutions;

19 “(B) visits to school systems, institutions
20 of higher education, and nonprofit organizations
21 conducting exemplary programs in civics and
22 government education, and economic education,
23 in the United States;

24 “(C) translations and adaptations regard-
25 ing United States civic and government edu-

1 cation, and economic education, curricular pro-
 2 grams for students and teachers, and in the
 3 case of training programs for teachers trans-
 4 lations and adaptations into forms useful in
 5 schools in eligible countries, and joint research
 6 projects in such areas;

7 “(D) research and evaluation assistance to
 8 determine—

9 “(i) the effects of the Cooperative
 10 Education Exchange programs on stu-
 11 dents’ development of the knowledge,
 12 skills, and traits of character essential for
 13 the preservation and improvement of con-
 14 stitutional democracy; and

15 “(ii) effective participation in and the
 16 preservation and improvement of an effi-
 17 cient market economy;

18 “(2) provide United States participants with—

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

21 “(B) visits to school systems, institutions
 22 of higher education, and organizations con-
 23 ducting exemplary programs in civics and gov-
 24 ernment education, and economic education, lo-
 25 cated in eligible countries;

1 “(C) assistance from educators and schol-
2 ars in eligible countries in the development of
3 curricular materials on the history, government,
4 and economy of such countries that are useful
5 in United States classrooms;

6 “(D) opportunities to provide onsite dem-
7 onstrations of United States curricula and ped-
8 agogy for educational leaders in eligible coun-
9 tries; and

10 “(E) research and evaluation assistance to
11 determine—

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

18 “(ii) effective participation in and im-
19 provement of an efficient market economy;
20 and

21 “(3) assist participants from eligible countries
22 and the United States to participate in international
23 conferences on civics and government education, and
24 economic education, for educational leaders, teacher

1 trainers, scholars in related disciplines, and edu-
2 cational policymakers.

3 “(e) PARTICIPANTS.—The primary participants in
4 the Cooperative Education Exchange programs assisted
5 under this section shall be educational leaders in the areas
6 of civics and government education, and economic edu-
7 cation, including curriculum and teacher training special-
8 ists, scholars in relevant disciplines, and educational pol-
9 icymakers, and government and private sector leaders
10 from the United States and eligible countries.

11 “(f) DEFINITION.—For the purpose of this section,
12 the term ‘eligible country’ means a Central European
13 country, an Eastern European country, Lithuania, Latvia,
14 Estonia, the independent states of the former Soviet
15 Union as defined in section 3 of the FREEDOM Support
16 Act (22 U.S.C. 5801), and may include the Republic of
17 Ireland, the province of Northern Ireland in the United
18 Kingdom, and any developing country as defined in section
19 209(d) of the Education for the Deaf Act.

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

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

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

5 **SEC. 3. REPEAL.**

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

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