

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. RES. 639

Establishing an annual Senate academic civics competition for secondary school students.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 11, 2026

Mr. KIM submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration

RESOLUTION

Establishing an annual Senate academic civics competition for secondary school students.

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

3 The Senate finds the following:

4 (1) According to the 2022 National Assessment
5 of Educational Progress civics and United States
6 history assessments, the average civics score for stu-
7 dents in grade 8 was 2 points lower compared to the
8 average civics score in 2018, the first time the civics
9 score dropped since the assessment was first admin-
10 istered in 1998.

1 (2) According to the 2023 Annenberg Civics
2 Knowledge Survey, a nationally represented survey,
3 1 in 6 adults in the United States could not name
4 any of the 3 branches of government.

5 (3) The decline in civics education contributes
6 to civic disengagement, evident in lower voter turn-
7 out among young people and reduced participation
8 in community life.

9 (4) The spread of misinformation and
10 disinformation has further highlighted the urgent
11 need for students to gain civic reasoning and media
12 literacy skills.

13 (5) The success of the Congressional Art Com-
14 petition and the Congressional App Challenge dem-
15 onstrates that Congress can play a unique role in
16 elevating student talent and achievement.

17 (6) With the 250th anniversary of the founding
18 of the United States approaching next year, the Sen-
19 ate has an opportunity to renew America’s commit-
20 ment to civic education and democratic participation.

21 **SEC. 2. ANNUAL SENATE CIVICS COMPETITION.**

22 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

23 (1) the term “Committee” means the Com-
24 mittee on Rules and Administration of the Senate;
25 and

1 (2) the term “secondary school” has the mean-
2 ing given the term in section 8101 of the Elemen-
3 tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
4 U.S.C. 7801).

5 (b) COMPETITION ESTABLISHED.—The Committee
6 shall establish and carry out an annual academic competi-
7 tion in the field of civics for secondary school students.

8 (c) AUTHORITIES.—The Committee may—

9 (1) partner with relevant public or nonprofit or-
10 ganizations, such as iCivics or the National Con-
11 stitution Center, to assist with the design of judging
12 rubrics and to offer support with the competition de-
13 scribed in subsection (b); and

14 (2) accept donations from private entities to
15 offset costs associated with the competition de-
16 scribed in subsection (b).

17 (d) REGULATIONS.—The Committee shall promul-
18 gate regulations necessary to carry out this section.

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