



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Raised Bill No. 6760

LCO No. 4735



Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:
(ED)

AN ACT CONCERNING CIVICS EDUCATION AND MEDIA LITERACY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established the
2 Connecticut Civics Education and Media Literacy Task Force to study
3 and develop strategies to improve how public schools provide
4 instruction on civics, citizenship, media literacy and American
5 government to students. Such study shall include, but need not be
6 limited to (1) reviewing existing curricula and the high school
7 graduation requirements, (2) receiving recommendations from
8 educators, administrators and the public, (3) a review of best practices,
9 and (4) exploring the feasibility of establishing public and private
10 partnerships to fund and support enhancements to such instruction.

11 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

12 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, at
13 least one of whom is a certified teacher or school administrator;

14 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, at least
15 one of whom is a certified teacher or school administrator;

16 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
17 Representatives;

18 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

19 (5) Two appointed by the minority leader of the House of
20 Representatives, at least one of whom is a certified teacher or school
21 administrator;

22 (6) Two appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, at least one
23 of whom is a certified teacher or school administrator;

24 (7) One appointed by the chairperson of the Black and Puerto Rican
25 Caucus of the General Assembly;

26 (8) One appointed by the Governor;

27 (9) The Secretary of the State, or the Secretary's designee;

28 (10) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee;

29 (11) The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, or the chief justice's
30 designee; and

31 (12) The executive director of the Commission on Women, Children,
32 Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, or the executive director's designee.

33 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
34 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member
35 of the General Assembly.

36 (d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later
37 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall
38 be filled by the appointing authority.

39 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro
40 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from
41 among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule
42 the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty

43 days after the effective date of this section.

44 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
45 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education
46 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

47 (g) Not later than January 1, 2024, the task force shall submit a report
48 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of
49 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to
50 education, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the
51 general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it
52 submits such report or January 1, 2024, whichever is later.

53 Sec. 2. Section 10-16b of the general statutes, as amended by section
54 32 of public act 22-80, is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
55 thereof (*Effective July 1, 2025*):

56 (a) In the public schools the program of instruction offered shall
57 include at least the following subject matter, as taught by legally
58 qualified teachers, the arts; career education; consumer education;
59 health and safety, including, but not limited to, human growth and
60 development, nutrition, first aid, including cardiopulmonary
61 resuscitation training in accordance with the provisions of section 10-
62 16qq, disease prevention and cancer awareness, including, but not
63 limited to, age and developmentally appropriate instruction in
64 performing self-examinations for the purposes of screening for breast
65 cancer and testicular cancer, community and consumer health, physical,
66 mental and emotional health, including youth suicide prevention,
67 substance abuse prevention, including instruction relating to opioid use
68 and related disorders, safety, which shall include the safe use of social
69 media, as defined in section 9-601, and may include the dangers of gang
70 membership, and accident prevention; language arts, including reading,
71 writing, grammar, speaking and spelling; mathematics; physical
72 education; science, which may include the climate change curriculum
73 described in subsection (d) of this section; social studies, including, but
74 not limited to, civics and media literacy, citizenship, economics,

75 geography, government, history and Holocaust and genocide education
76 and awareness in accordance with the provisions of section 10-18f;
77 African-American and black studies in accordance with the provisions
78 of section 10-16ss; Puerto Rican and Latino studies in accordance with
79 the provisions of section 10-16ss; Native American studies, in
80 accordance with the provisions of section 10-16vv; Asian American and
81 Pacific Islander studies, in accordance with the provisions of section 10-
82 66ww; computer programming instruction; and in addition, on at least
83 the secondary level, one or more world languages; vocational education;
84 and the black and Latino studies course in accordance with the
85 provisions of sections 10-16tt and 10-16uu. For purposes of this
86 subsection, world languages shall include American Sign Language,
87 provided such subject matter is taught by a qualified instructor under
88 the supervision of a teacher who holds a certificate issued by the State
89 Board of Education. For purposes of this subsection, the "arts" means
90 any form of visual or performing arts, which may include, but not be
91 limited to, dance, music, art and theatre.

92 (b) If a local or regional board of education requires its pupils to take
93 a course in a world language, the parent or guardian of a pupil
94 identified as deaf or hard of hearing may request in writing that such
95 pupil be exempted from such requirement and, if such a request is
96 made, such pupil shall be exempt from such requirement.

97 (c) Each local and regional board of education shall on September 1,
98 1982, and annually thereafter at such time and in such manner as the
99 Commissioner of Education shall request, attest to the State Board of
100 Education that such local or regional board of education offers at least
101 the program of instruction required pursuant to this section, and that
102 such program of instruction is planned, ongoing and systematic.

103 (d) The State Board of Education shall make available curriculum
104 materials and such other materials as may assist local and regional
105 boards of education in developing instructional programs pursuant to
106 this section. The State Board of Education, within available
107 appropriations and utilizing available resource materials, shall assist

108 and encourage local and regional boards of education to include: (1)
 109 Holocaust and genocide education and awareness; (2) the historical
 110 events surrounding the Great Famine in Ireland; (3) African-American
 111 and black studies; (4) Puerto Rican and Latino studies; (5) Native
 112 American studies; (6) Asian American and Pacific Islander studies; (7)
 113 personal financial management, including, but not limited to, financial
 114 literacy as developed in the plan provided under section 10-16pp; (8)
 115 training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of automatic
 116 external defibrillators; (9) labor history and law, including organized
 117 labor, the collective bargaining process, existing legal protections in the
 118 workplace, the history and economics of free market capitalism and
 119 entrepreneurialism, and the role of labor and capitalism in the
 120 development of the American and world economies; (10) climate change
 121 consistent with the Next Generation Science Standards; (11) topics
 122 approved by the state board upon the request of local or regional boards
 123 of education as part of the program of instruction offered pursuant to
 124 subsection (a) of this section; and (12) instruction relating to the Safe
 125 Haven Act, sections 17a-57 to 17a-61, inclusive. The Department of
 126 Energy and Environmental Protection shall be available to each local
 127 and regional board of education for the development of curriculum on
 128 climate change as described in this subsection.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1,2025</i>	10-16b

Statement of Purpose:

To establish the Connecticut Civics Education and Media Literacy Task Force and to include civics and media literacy in the public school curriculum.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]