

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0177

Education-Understanding federal and state government.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Haroldson, Fortner,
Jennings, Neiman, Ottman and Styvar and
Senator(s) Boner, Hutchings and Steinmetz

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to education; requiring comprehensive
2 instruction in American history, government and civics that
3 includes rigorous study of the primary documents and
4 sources of the nation's history as specified; requiring the
5 school district to make curricular materials available for
6 inspection; specifying applicability; and providing for an
7 effective date.

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9 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

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11 **Section 1.** W.S. 21-9-105 is created to read:

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13 **21-9-105. Instruction in federal and state**
14 **government.**

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1 (a) Each school district providing education in
2 government and civics under W.S. 21-9-101(b)(i)(N) shall
3 provide instruction that prepares students for informed,
4 engaged citizenship in local, state and national affairs
5 based on an understanding of American history and
6 institutions of government, the political philosophy that
7 informs them and the challenges encountered by the nation
8 and its institutions of freedom. Instruction under this
9 subsection shall include:

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11 (i) The history of the United States and the
12 state of Wyoming and the impact of these histories on the
13 present;

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15 (ii) The basic principles of state government
16 and of the American constitutional democracy and the
17 application of those principles to the democratic republic;

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19 (iii) Study of the Wyoming state constitution
20 under W.S. 21-9-102 including how the constitution was
21 developed;

22

1 (iv) Study of the United States constitution
2 under W.S. 21-9-102 including the debates surrounding the
3 adoption of the constitution and study of the declaration
4 of independence and other essential founding documents and
5 the ongoing impact of those documents on American
6 institutions of self-governance;

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8 (v) Study of landmark supreme court cases and
9 their application and impact on law and society;

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11 (vi) Study of the civic virtues necessary for
12 effective citizenship and participation in a self-governing
13 democratic republic;

14

15 (vii) Study of the freedoms enumerated in the
16 bill of rights and their importance today;

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18 (viii) Study of the protections enumerated in
19 the bill of rights;

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21 (ix) The addition of the thirteenth, fourteenth
22 and fifteenth amendments to the United States constitution

1 and their importance to the civil rights movement and
2 today;

3

4 (x) Study of the changing role of religion and
5 the family in American history;

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7 (xi) Study of threats encountered by the
8 democratic republic and free society including:

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10 (A) Slavery;

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12 (B) The political extremisms of fascism and
13 communism;

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15 (C) Religious prejudice and discrimination;

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17 (D) Identity politics;

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19 (E) Corruption in government;

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21 (F) Fiscal mismanagement.

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1 (b) Each school district shall make available during
2 regular business hours for inspection by any parent or
3 guardian of a child enrolled in the school district the
4 curricular materials used to provide instruction under
5 subsection (a) of this section. If the curricular materials
6 are digital, the school district shall provide detail to
7 the parent or guardian on how to access the materials and,
8 if necessary, shall make a computer available for that
9 purpose to the parent or guardian to access the materials
10 during regular business hours.

11

12 **Section 2.** The provisions of W.S. 21-9-105 created by
13 section 1 of this act shall apply to school districts
14 beginning in school year 2023-2024.

15

16 **Section 3.** This act is effective July 1, 2021.

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(END)