

SUMMARY—Makes various changes relating to education. (BDR 34-827)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: May have Fiscal Impact.

Effect on the State: Contains Appropriation not included in Executive Budget.

AN ACT relating to education; revising provisions relating to the State Seal of Civics Program; creating the Advisory Council on Civics Education; establishing the membership and duties of the Council; making an appropriation to the Nevada Center for Civic Engagement to raise awareness of and create awards for civics education; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Under existing law, the Superintendent of Public Instruction is required to: (1) establish a State Seal of Civics Program to recognize pupils who graduate high school with a high level of proficiency in civics; (2) create a State Seal of Civics to affix to the diploma of such pupils; (3) establish the criteria for the Program; and (4) adopt regulations that set forth the criteria to designate a school, pupil or teacher or other school employee as a Nevada School of Civic Excellence, Student Civic Leader or Educator Civic Leader, respectively. (NRS 388.5933, 388.5935, 388.5937) **Section 2** of this bill creates the Advisory Council on Civics Education within the Department of Education and sets forth the provisions for appointment to and service on the Council. **Section 3** of this bill requires the Council to: (1) assist the Superintendent with the



development and implementation of the State Seal of Civics Program; and (2) develop and set forth certain criteria for the Program. **Section 4** of this bill: (1) requires the Superintendent to develop the Program in cooperation with the Council; (2) authorizes the Superintendent, in consultation with the Council, to adopt any regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of the Program; and (3) authorizes the Superintendent to apply for any available grants and accept any donations or gifts for the support of the Program. **Section 5** of this bill revises the grade point average and examination requirements for a pupil to receive the State Seal of Civics. **Sections 5 and 6** of this bill revise provisions of the Program to account for the duties of the Council.

Section 7 of this bill makes an appropriation to the Nevada Center for Civic Engagement to raise awareness of civics education programs and create awards in areas of civics education.

Section 8 of this bill requires the initial members of the Council to draw lots to stagger their initial terms.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Chapter 388 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 and 3 of this act.

Sec. 2. 1. *The Advisory Council on Civics Education is hereby created within the Department of Education. The Council consists of:*



(a) Two members who are appointed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction and who are employees of the Department;

(b) Two members who are appointed by the Executive Director of the Nevada Center for Civic Engagement and who are staff members of the Nevada Center for Civic Engagement or its successor organization;

(c) One member who is appointed by the Nevada Association of School Administrators who is a principal of a public high school;

(d) One member who is appointed by the Clark County Education Association and who is a teacher in a public high school in an urban setting in southern Nevada; and

(e) One member who is appointed by the Nevada State Education Association and who is a teacher in a public high school in a rural setting or in northern Nevada.

2. After the initial terms, the term of each member of the Council is 2 years, and members shall serve at the pleasure of their appointing authority.

3. Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the Council must be filled in the same manner as the original appointment not later than 30 days after the vacancy occurs.

4. The Council shall select from its members a Chair and a Vice Chair who shall hold office for 1 year and who may be reselected.

5. The Council shall meet at the call of the Chair as often as necessary to perform its duties pursuant to section 3 of this act.



6. *A majority of the members of the Council constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business, and a majority of those members present at any meeting is sufficient for any official action taken by the Council.*

7. *The members of the Council serve without compensation, except that each member is entitled to receive the per diem allowance and travel expenses provided for state officers and employees generally while engaged in the official business of the Council.*

8. *A member of the Council who is an officer or employee of this State or a political subdivision of this State must be relieved from his or her duties without loss of regular compensation to prepare for and attend meetings of the Council and perform any work necessary to carry out the duties of the Council in the most timely manner practicable. A state agency or political subdivision of this State shall not require an officer or employee who is a member of the Council to:*

(a) Make up the time he or she is absent from work to carry out his or her duties as a member of the Council; or

(b) Take annual leave or compensatory time for the absence.

Sec. 3. *The Advisory Council on Civics Education created by section 2 of this act shall:*

1. Assist the Superintendent of Public Instruction with the development and implementation of the State Seal of Civics Program established pursuant to NRS 388.5933.

2. Develop a process by which pupils may apply to receive the State Seal of Civics.

3. Review applications submitted pursuant to subsection 2 and recommend qualifying pupils to the Superintendent of Public Instruction for receipt of the State Seal of Civics.



4. *Develop a rubric and set forth a satisfactory score to determine if a pupil meets the requirements for a satisfactory score in citizenship for the purposes of NRS 388.5935.*

5. *Set forth the requirements for completing a service learning project for the purposes of NRS 388.5935.*

6. *Set forth the criteria to earn a designation as a Nevada School of Civic Excellence, a Student Civic Leader or an Educator Civic Leader.*

7. *Set forth the criteria for distributing any gifts, grants of donations for the support of the State Seal of Civics Program, if any, to any schools that provide civics programs pursuant to NRS 388.5933, 388.5935 and 388.5937 and sections 2 and 3 of this act.*

Sec. 4. NRS 388.5933 is hereby amended to read as follows:

388.5933 1. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall , *in cooperation with the Advisory Council on Civics Education created by section 2 of this act*, establish a State Seal of Civics Program to recognize pupils who graduate from a public high school, including, without limitation, a charter school and a university school for profoundly gifted pupils, who have attained a high level of proficiency in civics.

2. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall ~~§~~ , *in cooperation with the Advisory Council on Civics Education:*

(a) Create a State Seal of Civics that may be affixed to the diploma and noted on the transcript of a pupil to recognize that the pupil has met the requirements of NRS 388.5935; and

(b) Deliver the State Seal of Civics to each school district, charter school and university school for profoundly gifted pupils that participates in the State Seal of Civics Program.



3. Any school district, charter school and university school for profoundly gifted pupils may participate in the State Seal of Civics Program by notifying the Superintendent of Public Instruction *and the Advisory Council on Civics Education* of its intent to participate in the Program.

4. Each board of trustees of a school district and governing body of a charter school or university school for profoundly gifted pupils that participates in the State Seal of Civics Program shall:

(a) Identify the pupils who have met the requirements to be awarded the State Seal of Civics; and

(b) Affix the State Seal of Civics to the diploma and note the receipt of the State Seal of Civics on the transcript of each pupil who meets those requirements.

5. The Superintendent of Public Instruction may :

(a) Apply for any available grants and accept any gifts, grants or donations for the support of the State Seal of Civics Program and its activities pursuant to NRS 388.5933, 388.5935 and 388.5937 and sections 2 and 3 of this act.

(b) In consultation with the Advisory Council on Civics Education, adopt regulations as necessary to carry out the provisions of this section and NRS 388.5935.

Sec. 5. NRS 388.5935 is hereby amended to read as follows:

388.5935 ~~§~~ A school district, charter school or university school for profoundly gifted pupils that participates in the State Seal of Civics Program established pursuant to NRS 388.5933



must award a pupil, upon graduation from high school, a high school diploma with a State Seal of Civics if the pupil:

~~[(a)]~~ **1.** Earns at least a ~~[3.25]~~ **2.5** grade point average on a 4.0 grading scale ~~[or, if a different grading scale is used, a 3.85-weighted grade point average on a]~~ **or any** grading scale approved by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

~~[(b)]~~ **2.** Demonstrates proficiency in civics by earning:

~~[(1)]~~ **(a)** At least 3 credits in social studies;

~~[(2)]~~ **(b)** A score of at least ~~[90]~~ **80** percent on the examination for civics required pursuant to NRS 389.009; and

~~[(3)]~~ **(c)** A satisfactory score in citizenship.

~~[(e)]~~ **3.** Completes a service learning project.

~~[2.—The Department shall develop a rubric and set forth a satisfactory score to determine if a pupil meets the requirements for a satisfactory score in citizenship for the purposes of subparagraph (3) of paragraph (b) of subsection 1.]~~

~~—3.—The Department shall provide guidance to public schools regarding the requirements for completing a service learning project for the purposes of paragraph (c) of subsection 1.]~~

Sec. 6. NRS 388.5937 is hereby amended to read as follows:

388.5937 ~~[(1)]~~ The Superintendent of Public Instruction may designate:

~~[(a)]~~ **1.** A school district, charter school or university school for profoundly gifted pupils as a Nevada School of Civic Excellence;

~~[(b)]~~ **2.** A pupil as a Student Civic Leader; or



~~[(e)]~~ 3. A teacher or other school employee as an Educator Civic Leader.

~~[2.—The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall adopt regulations that set forth the criteria to earn a designation pursuant to subsection 1.]~~

Sec. 7. 1. There is hereby appropriated from the State General Fund to the Nevada Center for Civic Engagement the sum of \$20,000 to raise awareness of civics education programs, including, without limitation, creating an Internet website containing information about civics education programs, distributing brochures and educational materials on civics education programs to students, teachers, school administrators and parents or guardians of students and creating awards in areas of civics education.

2. Upon acceptance of the money appropriated by subsection 1, the Nevada Center for Civic Engagement agrees to:

(a) Prepare and transmit a report to the Interim Finance Committee on or before December 18, 2026, that describes each expenditure made from the money appropriated by subsection 1 from the date on which the money was received by the Nevada Center for Civic Engagement through December 1, 2026;

(b) Prepare and transmit a final report to the Interim Finance Committee on or before September 17, 2027, that describes each expenditure made from the money appropriated by subsection 1 from the date on which the money was received by Nevada Center for Civic Engagement through June 30, 2027; and

(c) Upon request of the Legislative Commission, make available to the Legislative Auditor any of the books, accounts, claims, reports, vouchers or other records of information, confidential or



otherwise, of the Nevada Center for Civic Engagement, regardless of their form or location, that the Legislative Auditor deems necessary to conduct an audit of the use of the money appropriated by subsection 1.

3. Any remaining balance of the appropriation made by subsection 1 must not be committed for expenditure after June 30, 2027, by the entity to which the appropriation is made or any entity to which money from the appropriation is granted or otherwise transferred in any manner, and any portion of the appropriated money remaining must not be spent for any purpose after September 17, 2027, by either the entity to which the money was appropriated or the entity to which the money was subsequently granted or transferred, and must be reverted to the State General Fund on or before September 17, 2027.

Sec. 8. Upon appointment of all the members of the Advisory Council on Civics Education pursuant to section 2 of this act, the members shall draw lots to stagger the terms of the initial members so that:

1. Three members of the Advisory Council serve an initial term of 1 year; and
2. Four members of the Advisory Council serve an initial term of 2 years.

Sec. 9. 1. This section becomes effective upon passage and approval.

2. Section 7 of this act becomes effective on July 1, 2025.
3. Sections 1 to 6, inclusive, and section 8 of this act become effective on October 1, 2025.

