

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 72—COMMITTEE
ON EDUCATION

MAY 24, 1999

Referred to Committee on Education

SUMMARY—Urges Council to Establish Academic Standards for Public Schools to incorporate study of certain historical documents into standards of content and performance that Council establishes for subject of social studies. (BDR R-1755)

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EXPLANATION – Matter in ***bolded italics*** is new; matter between brackets ~~[omitted material]~~ is material to be omitted.

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Urging the Council to Establish Academic Standards for Public Schools to incorporate the study of certain historical documents into the standards of content and performance that the Council establishes for the subject of social studies.

- 1 WHEREAS, In the words of philosopher George Santayana, “Those who
- 2 do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it”; and
- 3 WHEREAS, In the words of orator Marcus Tullius Cicero, “To be
- 4 ignorant of what occurred before you were born is to remain always a child.
- 5 For what is the worth of human life, unless it is woven into the life of our
- 6 ancestors by the records of history?”; and
- 7 WHEREAS, In the minutes of a meeting of the Board of Governors of the
- 8 University of Virginia held on March 4, 1825, Thomas Jefferson, Founding
- 9 Father and third President of the United States of America, recorded that
- 10 the principles of government upon which the Constitution of the United
- 11 States of America is genuinely based are to be found essentially, with
- 12 respect to the distinctive principles of the government of the United States
- 13 of America, in the Declaration of Independence, the Federalist Papers and
- 14 the Farewell Address of President George Washington; and
- 15 WHEREAS, It is a generally held view that the Constitution of the United
- 16 States of America, the Declaration of Independence, the Federalist Papers,
- 17 the Gettysburg Address, the Emancipation Proclamation and the Farewell
- 18 Address of President George Washington together encompass the periphery
- 19 and essence of the governing principles of the United States of America;
- 20 and

1 WHEREAS, General knowledge of these essential historical documents is
2 required of persons who desire to become naturalized citizens of the United
3 States of America and, by comparison, we should ask no less of our
4 children who enjoy citizenship in this country as their birthright; and

5 WHEREAS, Knowledge of the Constitution of the State of Nevada is
6 instrumental in understanding how the concepts and principles set forth in
7 national documents of historical significance apply at the state level; and

8 WHEREAS, Knowledge of documents that have been written and events
9 that have transpired in the two centuries following the founding of this
10 nation are also important to understanding the diverse culture that has
11 evolved in this nation as we approach the 21st century; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE SENATE
13 CONCURRING, That the Legislature of the State of Nevada hereby urges the
14 Council to Establish Academic Standards for Public Schools, created by the
15 Nevada Legislature in 1997, to continue to incorporate into the standards of
16 content and performance that the Council establishes with respect to the
17 subject of social studies within the appropriate grade level, the study of the
18 Constitution of the United States of America, including, without limitation,
19 the Bill of Rights, the Constitution of the State of Nevada, the Declaration
20 of Independence, the Federalist Papers, the Gettysburg Address and the
21 Emancipation Proclamation; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the Legislature of the State of Nevada also urges the
23 Council to incorporate into its standards the study of documents and events
24 that reflect the full history of this country and its diverse citizenry,
25 including, without limitation, the Seneca Falls Declaration, "Ain't I A
26 Woman?" by Sojourner Truth, the writings and activities of Susan B.
27 Anthony with respect to women's rights, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo,
28 the speech entitled "I Have a Dream" by Martin Luther King, Jr., the
29 Monroe Doctrine, the discussions of President Theodore Roosevelt with
30 respect to anti-trust law and the writings and activities of Ralph J. Bunche
31 with respect to the challenge of human relations; and be it further

32 RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and transmit a
33 copy of this resolution to the Chairman of the Council to Establish
34 Academic Standards for Public Schools, created by the Nevada Legislature
35 in 1997.