

SUMMARY—Revises requirements for the instruction in American government that is taught to pupils in public high schools. (BDR 34-523)

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

Effect on the State: Yes.

AN ACT relating to education; requiring the instruction given in American government to pupils in public high schools to include certain instruction in criminal law; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law requires each public school and state facility for the detention of children in this State to provide instruction in American government. Such instruction is required to be given during at least 1 year of elementary school and for a period of at least 1 year in high school. (NRS 389.054) This bill requires the instruction in American government that is given to pupils during high school to include instruction in criminal law and specifies certain crimes which frequently involve persons under the age of 18 years that must be included in the instruction. In addition, this bill requires that such instruction emphasize personal responsibility for understanding and complying with the law and lists specific topics to be included as part of this instruction. In addition, the instruction must include information to assist victims and witnesses of such crimes and lists specific topics for this instruction.



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

Section 1. NRS 389.054 is hereby amended to read as follows:

389.054 1. In all public schools, the Caliente Youth Center, the Nevada Youth Training Center and any other state facility for the detention of children that is operated pursuant to title 5 of NRS, instruction must be given in American government, including, without limitation, instruction on:

(a) The essentials of:

- (1) The Constitution of the United States, including, without limitation, the Bill of Rights;
- (2) The Constitution of the State of Nevada; and
- (3) The Declaration of Independence;

(b) The origin and history of the Constitutions;

(c) The study of and devotion to American institutions and ideals; and

(d) Civics.

2. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 388C.120, the instruction required in subsection 1 must be given during at least 1 year of the elementary school grades and for a period of at least 1 year in all high schools.



3. In addition to the instruction described in subsection 1, instruction in American government that is given during high school must include instruction in criminal law. Such instruction must include, without limitation, instruction concerning crimes that frequently involve persons under the age of 18 years, including, without limitation, crimes involving:

(a) Sexual conduct, including, without limitation, sexual assault, statutory rape and sexting;

(b) Alcohol and controlled substances, including, without limitation, driving under the influence and the possession, use and distribution of alcohol and controlled substances;

(c) Domestic violence;

(d) Stalking; and

(e) Destruction of property.

4. The instruction given pursuant to subsection 3 must emphasize personal responsibility for understanding and complying with the law and must include, without limitation, instruction on:

(a) The elements of the various crimes;

(b) Appropriate conduct necessary to avoid being accused of such crimes, including, without limitation, specific instruction concerning the legal requirements for finding consent with respect to sexual conduct;

(c) The consequences of engaging in such crimes;

(d) The rights of a person alleged to have committed any such crime; and

(e) The criminal justice system.



5. The instruction given pursuant to subsection 3 must provide information to assist victims and witnesses of such crimes, including, without limitation:

- (a) The rights of victims;*
- (b) Resources available to victims;*
- (c) The rights and responsibilities of a person who witnesses any such crime; and*
- (d) Information concerning how to report such a crime and where to seek assistance.*

Sec. 2. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2017.

