

SENATE BILL NO. 107—SENATOR SEGERBLOM

PREFILED FEBRUARY 8, 2017

Referred to Committee on Education

SUMMARY—Requires ethnic and diversity studies in public high schools. (BDR 34-116)

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

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

AN ACT relating to education; requiring the Council to Establish Academic Standards for Public Schools to establish standards of content and performance for ethnic and diversity studies in high school; requiring a pupil to pass a course in ethnic and diversity studies to receive a high school diploma; revising provisions governing the standards of content and performance for social studies; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

1 Existing law requires the Council to Establish Academic Standards for Public
2 Schools to establish standards of content and performance for certain courses of
3 study in public schools. (NRS 389.520) **Sections 1 and 6** of this bill require the
4 Council to establish standards of content and performance for ethnic and diversity
5 studies for pupils enrolled in high school.

6 Existing law designates the core academic subjects that must be taught in all
7 public schools and requires a pupil enrolled in a public high school to enroll in a
8 minimum number of units of credit in certain subject areas. (NRS 389.018) **Section**
9 **2** of this bill designates, for high schools, ethnic and diversity studies as a core
10 academic subject and requires a high school pupil to enroll in at least one unit of
11 credit in ethnic and diversity studies established in accordance with the standards
12 prescribed by the Council pursuant to **section 1**.

13 Existing law requires a pupil enrolled in a public high school, the Caliente
14 Youth Center, the Nevada Youth Training Center or any other state facility for the
15 detention of children to pass a course in American government and American
16 history to receive a certificate or diploma of graduation. (NRS 389.054, 389.057,
17 389.077) **Section 3** of this bill adds the requirement that such a pupil pass a course
18 in ethnic and diversity studies established in accordance with the standards of
19 content and performance prescribed by the Council pursuant to **section 1** to receive
20 a certificate or diploma of graduation.



21 Existing law requires the Council to include multicultural education in the
22 standards of content and performance established for social studies. (NRS 389.520).
23 **Section 6** revises this requirement by specifying that the standards for social studies
24 which include multicultural education apply to kindergarten and grades 1 to 8,
25 inclusive.

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

1 **Section 1.** Chapter 389 of NRS is hereby amended by adding
2 thereto a new section to read as follows:

3 *1. In establishing the standards of content and performance*
4 *for ethnic and diversity studies for pupils enrolled in high school*
5 *pursuant to NRS 389.520, the Council shall develop the standards*
6 *in consultation with:*

7 *(a) Faculty of ethnic or diversity studies at colleges and*
8 *universities in this State that have an ethnic or diversity studies*
9 *program;*

10 *(b) Representatives of the school districts in this State, a*
11 *majority of whom are teachers in kindergarten through grade 12*
12 *and who have experience or an educational background in the*
13 *study and teaching of ethnic or diversity studies; and*

14 *(c) Other qualified persons who represent the diverse*
15 *communities of this State and the United States.*

16 **2.** *The standards established pursuant to subsection 1 must:*

17 *(a) Examine the culture, history and contributions of diverse*
18 *American communities, including, without limitation, African*
19 *Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Asian*
20 *Americans, European Americans, Basque Americans and any*
21 *other ethnic or diverse American communities the Council deems*
22 *appropriate;*

23 *(b) Emphasize human relations, sensitivity towards all races*
24 *and diverse populations and work-related cultural competency*
25 *skills;*

26 *(c) Be written in a manner that allows a school district or*
27 *charter school to modify the content to reflect and support the*
28 *demographics of pupils in the community, as long as the*
29 *prescribed standard is met; and*

30 *(d) Comply with any applicable admissions requirements for*
31 *colleges and universities in this State.*

32 **Sec. 2.** NRS 389.018 is hereby amended to read as follows:

33 389.018 1. The following subjects are designated as the core
34 academic subjects that must be taught, as applicable for grade
35 levels, in all public schools, the Caliente Youth Center, the Nevada



1 Youth Training Center and any other state facility for the detention
2 of children that is operated pursuant to title 5 of NRS:

- 3 (a) English language arts;
- 4 (b) Mathematics;
- 5 (c) Science; ~~and~~
- 6 (d) Social studies, which includes only the subjects of history,
7 geography, economics and government ~~and~~; *and*
- 8 *(e) For high schools, ethnic and diversity studies.*

9 2. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a pupil
10 enrolled in a public high school must enroll in a minimum of:

- 11 (a) Four units of credit in English language arts;
- 12 (b) Four units of credit in mathematics, including, without
13 limitation, Algebra I and geometry, or an equivalent course of study
14 that integrates Algebra I and geometry;
- 15 (c) Three units of credit in science, including two laboratory
16 courses; ~~and~~
- 17 (d) Three units of credit in social studies, including, without
18 limitation:
 - 19 (1) American government;
 - 20 (2) American history; and
 - 21 (3) World history or geography ~~and~~; *and*

22 *(e) One unit of credit in ethnic and diversity studies pursuant*
23 *to section 1 of this act.*

24 ↪ A pupil is not required to enroll in the courses of study and
25 credits required by this subsection if the pupil, the parent or legal
26 guardian of the pupil and an administrator or a counselor at the
27 school in which the pupil is enrolled mutually agree to a modified
28 course of study for the pupil and that modified course of study
29 satisfies at least the requirements for a standard high school diploma
30 or an adjusted diploma, as applicable.

31 3. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, in addition
32 to the core academic subjects, the following subjects must be taught
33 as applicable for grade levels and to the extent practicable in all
34 public schools, the Caliente Youth Center, the Nevada Youth
35 Training Center and any other state facility for the detention of
36 children that is operated pursuant to title 5 of NRS:

- 37 (a) The arts;
- 38 (b) Computer education and technology;
- 39 (c) Health; and
- 40 (d) Physical education.

41 ↪ If the State Board requires the completion of course work in a
42 subject area set forth in this subsection for graduation from high
43 school or promotion to the next grade, a public school shall offer the
44 required course work. Except as otherwise provided for a course of
45 study in health prescribed by subsection 1 of NRS 389.021, unless a



1 subject is required for graduation from high school or promotion to
2 the next grade, a charter school is not required to comply with this
3 subsection.

4 **Sec. 3.** NRS 389.077 is hereby amended to read as follows:

5 389.077 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsections 2 and
6 3, no pupil in any public high school, the Caliente Youth Center, the
7 Nevada Youth Training Center or any other state facility for the
8 detention of children that is operated pursuant to title 5 of NRS may
9 receive a certificate or diploma of graduation without having passed
10 a course in American government and American history as required
11 by NRS 389.054 and 389.057 ~~†~~, *and a course in ethnic and*
12 *diversity studies established in accordance with the standards of*
13 *content and performance prescribed pursuant to section 1 of this*
14 *act.*

15 2. A pupil who is enrolled in a university school for profoundly
16 gifted pupils who meets the requirements of NRS 388C.120 is
17 exempt from the provisions of subsection 1.

18 3. A pupil who transfers during grade 12 to a school in this
19 State from a school outside this State because of the military transfer
20 of the parent or legal guardian of the pupil may receive a waiver
21 from the requirements of subsection 1 if, in accordance with the
22 provisions of NRS 388F.010, the pupil:

23 (a) Successfully completed a comparable course in the school in
24 which the pupil was previously enrolled; or

25 (b) Successfully completes an alternative means prescribed by
26 the school district for acquiring the required course work.

27 **Sec. 4.** NRS 389.500 is hereby amended to read as follows:

28 389.500 As used in NRS 389.500 to 389.540, inclusive, *and*
29 *section 1 of this act*, “Council” means the Council to Establish
30 Academic Standards for Public Schools.

31 **Sec. 5.** NRS 389.505 is hereby amended to read as follows:

32 389.505 The Superintendent of Public Instruction is
33 responsible for ensuring that the duties and responsibilities of the
34 Council set forth in NRS 389.500 to 389.540, inclusive, *and section*
35 *1 of this act and NRS* 390.105 and 390.115 are carried out by the
36 Council successfully.

37 **Sec. 6.** NRS 389.520 is hereby amended to read as follows:

38 389.520 1. The Council shall:

39 (a) Establish standards of content and performance, including,
40 without limitation, a prescription of the resulting level of
41 achievement, for the grade levels set forth in ~~subsection~~
42 *subsections 3 and 4*, based upon the content of each course, that is
43 expected of pupils for the following courses of study:

- 44 (1) English language arts;
45 (2) Mathematics;



- 1 (3) Science;
- 2 (4) Social studies, which includes only the subjects of
- 3 history, geography, economics and government;
- 4 (5) The arts;
- 5 (6) Computer education and technology;
- 6 (7) Health;
- 7 (8) Physical education ; ~~† and†~~
- 8 (9) A foreign or world language † ; and
- 9 (10) *Ethnic and diversity studies pursuant to section 1 of*
- 10 *this act.*

11 (b) Establish a schedule for the periodic review and, if
12 necessary, revision of the standards of content and performance. The
13 review must include, without limitation, the review required
14 pursuant to NRS 390.115 of the results of pupils on the
15 examinations administered pursuant to NRS 390.105.

16 (c) Assign priorities to the standards of content and performance
17 relative to importance and degree of emphasis and revise the
18 standards, if necessary, based upon the priorities.

19 2. The standards for computer education and technology must
20 include a policy for the ethical, safe and secure use of computers
21 and other electronic devices. The policy must include, without
22 limitation:

23 (a) The ethical use of computers and other electronic devices,
24 including, without limitation:

25 (1) Rules of conduct for the acceptable use of the Internet
26 and other electronic devices; and

27 (2) Methods to ensure the prevention of:

28 (I) Cyber-bullying;

29 (II) Plagiarism; and

30 (III) The theft of information or data in an electronic
31 form;

32 (b) The safe use of computers and other electronic devices,
33 including, without limitation, methods to:

34 (1) Avoid cyber-bullying and other unwanted electronic
35 communication, including, without limitation, communication with
36 on-line predators;

37 (2) Recognize when an on-line electronic communication is
38 dangerous or potentially dangerous; and

39 (3) Report a dangerous or potentially dangerous on-line
40 electronic communication to the appropriate school personnel;

41 (c) The secure use of computers and other electronic devices,
42 including, without limitation:

43 (1) Methods to maintain the security of personal identifying
44 information and financial information, including, without limitation,
45 identifying unsolicited electronic communication which is sent for



1 the purpose of obtaining such personal and financial information for
2 an unlawful purpose;

3 (2) The necessity for secure passwords or other unique
4 identifiers;

5 (3) The effects of a computer contaminant;

6 (4) Methods to identify unsolicited commercial material; and

7 (5) The dangers associated with social networking Internet
8 sites; and

9 (d) A designation of the level of detail of instruction as
10 appropriate for the grade level of pupils who receive the instruction.

11 3. The standards *of content and performance* for social studies
12 must include multicultural education **†** *for each grade level in*
13 *kindergarten and grades 1 to 8, inclusive*, including, without
14 limitation, information relating to contributions made by men and
15 women from various racial and ethnic backgrounds. The Council
16 shall consult with members of the community who represent the
17 racial and ethnic diversity of this State in developing such standards.

18 4. The Council shall establish standards of content and
19 performance for each grade level in kindergarten and grades 1 to 8,
20 inclusive, for English language arts and mathematics. The Council
21 shall establish standards of content and performance for the grade
22 levels selected by the Council for the other courses of study
23 prescribed in subsection 1.

24 5. The Council shall forward to the State Board the standards
25 of content and performance established by the Council for each
26 course of study. The State Board shall:

27 (a) Adopt the standards for each course of study, as submitted
28 by the Council; or

29 (b) If the State Board objects to the standards for a course of
30 study or a particular grade level for a course of study, return those
31 standards to the Council with a written explanation setting forth the
32 reason for the objection.

33 6. If the State Board returns to the Council the standards of
34 content and performance for a course of study or a grade level, the
35 Council shall:

36 (a) Consider the objection provided by the State Board and
37 determine whether to revise the standards based upon the objection;
38 and

39 (b) Return the standards or the revised standards, as applicable,
40 to the State Board.

41 ➔ The State Board shall adopt the standards of content and
42 performance or the revised standards, as applicable.

43 7. The Council shall work in cooperation with the State Board
44 to prescribe the examinations required by NRS 390.105.

45 8. As used in this section:



1 (a) "Computer contaminant" has the meaning ascribed to it in
2 NRS 205.4737.

3 (b) "Cyber-bullying" has the meaning ascribed to it in
4 NRS 388.123.

5 (c) "Electronic communication" has the meaning ascribed to it
6 in NRS 388.124.

7 **Sec. 7.** This act becomes effective:

8 1. Upon passage and approval for the purpose of adopting
9 regulations and performing any other preparatory administrative
10 tasks that are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act; and

11 2. On July 1, 2018, for all other purposes.

