

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 2241

98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE DOHRMAN.

5957H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

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## AN ACT

To repeal section 170.011, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to instruction on the Bill of Rights in schools.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Section 170.011, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 170.011, to read as follows:

170.011. 1. Regular courses of instruction in the Constitution of the United States and of the state of Missouri and in American history and institutions shall be given in all public and private schools in the state of Missouri, except privately operated trade schools, and shall begin not later than the seventh grade and continue in high school [to an extent determined by the state commissioner of education], and shall continue in college and university [courses to an extent determined by the state commissioner of higher education] **introductory courses in American government and American history**. In the 1990-91 school year and each year thereafter, local school districts maintaining high schools shall comply with the provisions of this section by offering in grade nine, ten, eleven, or twelve a course of instruction in the institutions, branches and functions of the government of the state of Missouri, including local governments, and of the government of the United States, [and] in the electoral process, **and the Bill of Rights to include original intent as well as historical and current interpretations and applications**. A local school district maintaining such a high school shall require that prior to the completion of the twelfth grade each pupil who receives a high school diploma or certificate of graduation on or after January 1, 1994, shall satisfactorily complete such a course of study. Such course shall be of at least one semester in length and may be two semesters in length. The department of elementary and secondary education may provide assistance in developing such a course if the

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

18 district requests assistance. A school district may elect to waive the requirements of this  
19 subsection for any student who transfers from outside the state to a Missouri high school if the  
20 student can furnish documentation deemed acceptable by the school district of the student's  
21 successful completion in any year from the ninth through the twelfth grade of a course of  
22 instruction in the institutions, branches, and functions of state government, including local  
23 governments, and of the government of the United States, [and] in the electoral process, **and the**  
24 **Bill of Rights to include original intent as well as historical and current interpretations and**  
25 **applications.**

26         2. American history courses at the elementary and secondary levels shall include in their  
27 proper time-line sequence specific referrals to the details and events of the racial equality  
28 movement that have caused major changes in United States and Missouri laws and attitudes, **and**  
29 **discussion of the Bill of Rights to include original intent as well as historical and current**  
30 **interpretations and applications.**

31         3. No pupil shall receive a certificate of graduation from any public or private school  
32 other than private trade schools unless he has satisfactorily passed an examination on the  
33 provisions and principles of the Constitution of the United States and of the state of Missouri,  
34 and in American history and American institutions. A school district may elect to waive the  
35 requirements of this subsection for any student who transfers from outside the state to a Missouri  
36 high school if the student can furnish documentation deemed acceptable by the school district  
37 of the student's successful completion in any year from the ninth through the twelfth grade of a  
38 course of instruction in the institutions, branches, and functions of state government, including  
39 local governments, and of the government of the United States, and in the electoral process. A  
40 student of a college or university, who, after having completed a course of instruction prescribed  
41 in this section and successfully passed an examination on the United States Constitution, and in  
42 American history and American institutions required hereby, transfers to another college or  
43 university, is not required to complete another such course or pass another such examination as  
44 a condition precedent to his graduation from the college or university.

45         4. In the 1990-91 school year and each year thereafter, each school district maintaining  
46 a high school may annually nominate to the state board of education a student who has  
47 demonstrated knowledge of the principles of government and citizenship through academic  
48 achievement, participation in extracurricular activities, and service to the community. Annually,  
49 the state board of education shall select fifteen students from those nominated by the local school  
50 districts and shall recognize and award them for their academic achievement, participation and  
51 service.

52           5. The provisions of this section shall not apply to students from foreign countries who  
53 are enrolled in public or private high schools in Missouri, if such students are foreign exchange  
54 students sponsored by a national organization recognized by the department of elementary and  
55 secondary education.

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