

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3591

To establish a grant program to enhance existing secondary education programs for the purpose of teaching high school students about the Constitution of the United States and the constitutions of the individual States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 17, 2009

Mr. CUMMINGS (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. WATSON, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Ms. WATERS, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, and Mr. WATT) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To establish a grant program to enhance existing secondary education programs for the purpose of teaching high school students about the Constitution of the United States and the constitutions of the individual States.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Constitution and Citi-
5 zenship Day Act of 2009”.

1 **SEC. 2. CONSTITUTION DAY AND CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY**
2 **SYSTEM FOR STUDENTS.**

3 Part C of title II of the Elementary and Secondary
4 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6601 et seq.) is amend-
5 ed by adding at the end the following new subpart:

6 **“Subpart 6—Teaching of the Constitution**

7 **“SEC. 2371. ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF CON-**
8 **STITUTION DAY GRANT PROGRAM.**

9 “(a) GRANT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary
10 shall establish and implement a grant program, to be
11 known as the ‘Constitution Day Grant Program’, under
12 which the Secretary shall award grants on a competitive
13 basis to local educational agencies and charter schools for
14 the purposes of enhancing educational programs to teach
15 students about the United States Constitution and the
16 constitution of the State in which the grant recipient is
17 located.

18 “(b) GRANTEE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—
19 Grants under this section may only be awarded to a local
20 educational agency or charter school with established sec-
21 ondary educational programs to teach students about the
22 United States Constitution and the constitution of the
23 State in which the grant recipient is located.

24 “(c) OPERATION OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS.—An
25 educational program funded by a grant under this section
26 shall—

1 “(1) occur on Constitution Day, September 17,
2 of each calender year (or on the Monday imme-
3 diately following Constitution Day, if Constitution
4 Day falls on a Saturday or a Sunday);

5 “(2) include assemblies, discussions, presen-
6 tations, or events commemorating the Constitution
7 of the United States and the constitution of the
8 State in which the grant recipient is located;

9 “(3) include efforts to reinforce existing Con-
10 stitutional curricula conducted by the grant recipi-
11 ent; and

12 “(4) make available to eligible students partici-
13 pating in such program the ability to register to
14 vote.

15 “(d) VOTER REGISTRATION LAWS.—A grant recipi-
16 ent under this section shall abide by all applicable State
17 and Federal voter registration laws.

18 **“SEC. 2372. GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS.**

19 “(a) SECRETARY CREATED PROCESS.—The Sec-
20 retary shall develop an application process for the grant
21 program under this subpart, consistent with the require-
22 ments of this section.

23 “(b) GRANT APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—An ap-
24 plication for a grant under this subpart shall—

1 “(1) describe the educational activities to be
2 funded by the grant; and

3 “(2) provide assurances that the requirements
4 of section 2371(c) will be met, and any additional
5 assurances that the Secretary determines to be nec-
6 essary to ensure compliance with the requirements
7 of this subpart.

8 **“SEC. 2373. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

9 “There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
10 retary \$4,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2010 through
11 2014 to carry out this subpart.”.

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