A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING TEACHING CIVIL GOVERNMENT IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS, INCLUDING THE HISTORY, CULTURE, AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF AMERICAN INDIANS, HISPANIC AMERICANS, AFRICAN AMERICANS, AND ASIAN AMERICANS.

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at http://leg.colorado.gov/.)

The bill mandates funding instruction in public schools of history and civil government of the United States and Colorado, including but not limited to the history, culture, and contributions of American Indians,
Hispanic Americans, African Americans, and Asian Americans.

Current law requires school districts to convene community forums to discuss the content standards in history and civil government at least once every 10 years. The bill requires the forums to be held at least every 2 years.

The history, culture, and civil government in education commission is established to make recommendations to the state board of education when the state board performs the scheduled review of education standards in 2018 so those standards and programs accurately reflect the history, culture, and civil government of the United States and Colorado, including the contributions and influence of American Indians, Hispanic Americans, African Americans, and Asian Americans.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In Colorado Revised Statutes, amend 22-1-104 as follows:

22-1-104. Teaching of history, culture, and civil government.

(1) The history and civil government of the state of Colorado shall be taught in all the public schools of this state.

(2) In addition, (1) The history and civil government of the United States AND OF THE STATE OF COLORADO, which includes the history, culture, and contributions of minorities, including, but not limited to, the American Indians, the Hispanic Americans, and the African Americans, MUST be taught in all the public schools of the state.

(3)(a) (2) Satisfactory completion of a course on the civil government of the United States and the state of Colorado, which includes INCLUDING the subjects described in subsection (2) SUBSECTION (1) of this section, shall be IS a condition of high school graduation in the public schools of this state.

(b) The condition of graduation described in paragraph (a) of this subsection (3) shall apply only to students entering their first year of high
(4) (3) (a) In an effort to increase civic participation among young people, each school district board of education shall convene a community forum on a periodic basis, but not less than once every ten two years, for all interested persons to discuss adopted content standards in civics, including the subjects described in subsection (2) SUBSECTION (1) of this section.\* THE HISTORY, CULTURE, AND CIVIL GOVERNMENT IN EDUCATION COMMISSION ESTABLISHED IN SECTION 22-1-104.3 SHALL ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN ANY SUCH FORUMS.

(b) Based upon input from this community forum, each school district board of education shall determine how the subject areas specified in SUBSECTION (1) OF this section are addressed when establishing graduation requirements.

(5) (4) (a) In an effort to strengthen the teaching of the history, culture, and civil government of the state of Colorado and of the United States in all public schools of the state in accordance with the requirements of this section, the department of education, in conjunction with the history, culture, and civil government in education commission established in section 22-1-104.3, shall assist the school districts of the state in developing and promoting programs for elementary and secondary students that engage the students in the process of discovery and interpretation of historical topics.\* THE SUBJECTS AND TOPICS SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION.

(b) The department of education is authorized to accept gifts, grants, and donations in furtherance of the objectives specified in paragraph (a) of this subsection (5) SUBSECTION (4)(a) OF THIS SECTION.

(c) It is the intent of the general assembly that the objectives
specified in paragraph (a) of this subsection (5) SUBSECTION (4)(a) OF THIS SECTION are to be funded through the state education fund created in section 17 (4) of article IX of the state constitution. The general assembly hereby finds that the development, promotion, and maintenance by the school districts of the state of programs for elementary and secondary students that engage such students in the process of discovery and interpretation of historical topics THE SUBJECTS AND TOPICS SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION assists these students in meeting state academic standards and may therefore be funded from moneys MONEY in the state education fund.

(6)(5)(a) In an effort to strengthen the teaching of civil education HISTORY, CULTURE, AND CIVIL GOVERNMENT, AS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION, in all public schools of the state in accordance with the requirements of this section, the department of education, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE HISTORY, CULTURE, AND CIVIL GOVERNMENT IN EDUCATION COMMISSION ESTABLISHED IN SECTION 22-1-104.3, shall assist the school districts of the state in developing and promoting programs for elementary and secondary students that address the state model content standards for HISTORY AND civics and promote best practices in civic education WHILE ALSO ADDRESSING THE SUBJECTS AND TOPICS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION.

(b) It is the intent of the general assembly that the objectives specified in this subsection (6) SUBSECTION (5) are to be funded through the state education fund created in section 17 (4) of article IX of the state constitution. The general assembly hereby finds that the development, promotion, and maintenance by the school districts of the state of programs for elementary and secondary students that address the state
model content standards for HISTORY AND civics and promote best
practices in civic education WHILE ADDRESSING THE SUBJECTS AND TOPICS
DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION assist these students in
meeting state academic standards and may therefore be funded from
money's MONEY in the state education fund.

   (6) THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL TAKE INTO
   CONSIDERATION ANY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE HISTORY, CULTURE, AND
   CIVIL GOVERNMENT IN EDUCATION COMMISSION ESTABLISHED IN SECTION
   22-1-104.3 WHEN PERFORMING ITS SIX-YEAR REVIEW OF THE STATE'S
   EDUCATION STANDARDS PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-7-1005 (6).

   SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 22-1-104.3 as
   follows:

   22-1-104.3. History, culture, and civil government in education
   commission - established - membership - duties. (1) THERE IS
   ESTABLISHED THE HISTORY, CULTURE, AND CIVIL GOVERNMENT IN
   EDUCATION COMMISSION, REFERRED TO IN THIS SECTION AS THE
   "COMMISSION". THE PURPOSE OF THE COMMISSION IS TO MAKE
   RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND
   DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE
   REGULAR SIX-YEAR REVIEW OF THE STATE'S EDUCATION STANDARDS AND
   PROGRAMS, PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-7-1005 (6). THE
   RECOMMENDATIONS MUST SEEK TO FURTHER THE DISCOVERY,
   INTERPRETATION, AND LEARNING OF THE HISTORY, CULTURE, AND CIVIL
   GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND COLORADO, INCLUDING THE
   CONTRIBUTIONS OF AMERICAN INDIANS, HISPANIC AMERICANS, AFRICAN
   AMERICANS, AND ASIAN AMERICANS. THE COMMISSION SHALL WORK
   COOPERATIVELY AND IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION AND LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS OF EDUCATION AS DESCRIBED IN
SECTION 22-1-104.

(2) ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 15, 2017, THE GOVERNOR SHALL
APPOINT, THROUGH THE OFFICE OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS, THE
MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION AS SET FORTH IN THIS SUBSECTION (2). THE
COMMISSION CONSISTS OF FIFTEEN MEMBERS AND, TO THE EXTENT
PRACTICABLE, MUST INCLUDE PERSONS FROM THROUGHOUT THE STATE
AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND MUST REFLECT THE ETHNIC
DIVERSITY OF THE STATE. A MAJORITY OF THE COMMISSION MEMBERS
MUST HAVE EITHER CLASSROOM EXPERIENCE OR EXPERIENCE IN
DEVELOPING EDUCATION CONTENT STANDARDS. THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE
COMMISSION IS AS FOLLOWS:

(a) TWO MEMBERS FROM THE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMUNITY;
(b) TWO MEMBERS FROM THE LATINO COMMUNITY;
(c) TWO MEMBERS FROM THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY;
(d) TWO MEMBERS FROM THE ASIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY;
(e) ONE MEMBER WHO REPRESENTS AN EDUCATORS' UNION;
(f) ONE MEMBER FROM AN ORGANIZATION THAT REPRESENTS
    EITHER SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS OR LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS;
(g) TWO MEMBERS REPRESENTING HIGHER EDUCATION. ONE
    MEMBER MUST REPRESENT A LARGE STATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER
    EDUCATION, AND ONE MEMBER MUST REPRESENT A SMALLER STATE
    INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.
(h) TWO MEMBERS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, AS
    DESIGNATED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION, WHO ARE NONVOTING
    MEMBERS; AND
(i) THE PRESIDENT OF THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY,
ESTABLISHED IN PART 2 OF ARTICLE 80 OF TITLE 24, OR HIS OR HER
DESIGNEE, WHO IS A NONVOTING MEMBER.

(3) COMMISSION MEMBERS SERVE FOR TERMS OF FOUR YEARS;
EXCEPT THAT, OF THE MEMBERS FIRST APPOINTED, TWO MEMBERS
APPOINTED PURSUANT TO EACH OF SUBSECTIONS (2)(a), (2)(b), AND (2)(c)
OF THIS SECTION AND ONE MEMBER APPOINTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION
(2)(d) OF THIS SECTION, AS DESIGNATED BY THE APPOINTING OFFICIALS,
SERVE INITIAL TERMS OF TWO YEARS. THE APPOINTING OFFICIALS SHALL
FILL ANY VACANCIES ON THE COMMISSION FOR THE REMAINDER OF ANY
UNEXPIRED TERM.

(4) BEGINNING IN SEPTEMBER 2017, THE COMMISSION SHALL MEET
A MINIMUM OF TWO TIMES PER YEAR AND ADDITIONALLY AS NEEDED IN
CONJUNCTION WITH THE COMMUNITY FORUMS ESTABLISHED IN SECTION
22-1-104.

(5) COMMISSION MEMBERS SERVE WITHOUT COMPENSATION BUT
MAY BE REIMBURSED FOR ACTUAL AND REASONABLE EXPENSES INCURRED
IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTIES.

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-7-1005, amend
(6) as follows:

22-7-1005. Preschool through elementary and secondary
education - aligned standards - adoption - revisions. (6) On or before
July 1, 2018, and on or before July 1 every six years thereafter, the state
board shall review and adopt any appropriate revisions to the preschool
through elementary and secondary education standards specified in this
section. In adopting revisions, the state board may add or delete one or
more of the specific instructional areas based on the needs of the state and
changes in national and international academic expectations. In adopting
revisions to the standards pursuant to this subsection (6), the state board shall ensure that the standards continue to meet the requirements specified in subsection (3) of this section. IN ADOPTING REVISIONS TO THE STANDARDS RELATED TO HISTORY AND CIVICS, THE STATE BOARD SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION ANY RECOMMENDATIONS PROVIDED BY THE HISTORY, CULTURE, AND CIVIL GOVERNMENT IN EDUCATION COMMISSION ESTABLISHED IN SECTION 22-1-104.3.

SECTION 4. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.