

CHAPTER 217

EDUCATION - PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HOUSE BILL 06-1121

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Todd, Benefield, Berens, Carroll M., Decker, Green, Hodge, Marshall, Massey, McKinley, Merrifield, Paccione, Penry, Solano, Borodkin, Buescher, Frangas, Gallegos, Garcia, Madden, McCluskey, McGihon, Plant, Vigil, Butcher, and Stafford;
also SENATOR(S) Williams, Windels, Gordon, Groff, Grossman, Shaffer, and Tupa.

AN ACT**CONCERNING RECOGNITION OF COMMUNITY SERVICE PERFORMED BY STUDENTS.**

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

SECTION 1. Legislative declaration. (1) (a) The general assembly hereby finds that:

(I) In addition to learning reading, writing, mathematics, and science, students need to learn the importance of giving back to their community through positive, active volunteer service;

(II) Being involved within the community by volunteering to help persons in need or to support community growth efforts teaches students the importance of being good citizens and taking an active role in their society;

(III) Teaching students the importance of volunteering in the community also provides a tangible benefit to the community, resulting in stronger, more effective community service organizations;

(IV) Service-learning is an effective teaching method that gives students the opportunity to apply curricular knowledge and skills while serving the community, thereby reinforcing the content standards applicable to many subjects.

(b) The general assembly therefore finds that school districts should encourage students to volunteer with community organizations by providing a method for recognizing students' community service and service-learning efforts. The general assembly further finds that promoting community service and service-learning

Capital letters indicate new material added to existing statutes; dashes through words indicate deletions from existing statutes and such material not part of act.

among students is an important goal of the thorough and uniform statewide system of public education to be implemented by each school district, as outlined in this section, through the exercise of each school district's power of local control.

SECTION 2. Article 32 of title 22, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION to read:

22-32-137. Community service and service-learning - legislative declaration.

EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL CONSIDER AND, IF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION DEEMS IT APPROPRIATE, ADOPT A POLICY TO ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO ENGAGE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE OR SERVICE-LEARNING AND TO RECOGNIZE STUDENTS' CONTRIBUTIONS TO THEIR COMMUNITIES THROUGH COMMUNITY SERVICE OR SERVICE-LEARNING. PURSUANT TO THE POLICY, A STUDENT WHO SUCCESSFULLY MEETS THE COMMUNITY SERVICE OR SERVICE-LEARNING PROGRAM GOALS, AS SPECIFIED IN THE POLICY, MAY EARN RECOGNITION IN THE MANNER DESCRIBED IN THE POLICY. THE POLICY SHOULD SPECIFY THE MANNER IN WHICH RECOGNITION OF SERVICE MAY BE REFLECTED ON A STUDENT'S DIPLOMA OR TRANSCRIPT AS AN INDICATION OF THE STUDENT'S COMMITMENT TO SERVICE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.

SECTION 3. Effective date. This act shall take effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly that is allowed for submitting a referendum petition pursuant to article V, section 1 (3) of the state constitution (August 9, 2006, if adjournment sine die is on May 10, 2006); except that, if a referendum petition is filed against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part, if approved by the people, shall take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by proclamation of the governor.

Approved: May 25, 2006