

## CHAPTER 251

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**EDUCATION - PUBLIC SCHOOLS**


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**HOUSE BILL 04-1202**

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Pommer, Coleman, Decker, Hodge, Madden, McFadyen, McGihon, Merrifield, Miller, Paccione, Plant, Salazar, Spradley, Stafford, Stengel, and Williams S.;  
also SENATOR(S) Chlouber, Arnold, Evans, Lamborn, Taylor, and Tupa.

**AN ACT**

**CONCERNING THE FUNDING OF "COLORADO HISTORY DAY", AND MAKING AN APPROPRIATION THEREFOR.**

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

**SECTION 1. Legislative declaration - "Colorado History Day".** (1) The general assembly hereby finds and declares that:

(a) "National History Day" (NHD) is a year-long academic enrichment program that engages students in grades six to twelve in the process of discovery and interpretation of historical topics. Students participating in the NHD program research historical topics related to an annual theme and present their projects in the form of historical papers, dramatic performances, documentaries, or museum-style exhibits. These projects are then evaluated at local, state, and national competitions. In Colorado, the annual statewide competition is held on the campus of the university of Colorado at Boulder, home of the state's "Colorado History Day" office.

(b) NHD originated as a small local contest in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1974. The NHD program was created by members of the history department of case western reserve university to help invigorate the teaching and learning of history in elementary and secondary schools. The program subsequently expanded throughout Ohio and neighboring midwestern states before becoming a national program in 1980. Through initial support from the national endowment for the humanities, the program expanded throughout the 1980s and 1990s. At the present time, over two million people are engaged annually in NHD activities, representing nearly every state. While the competition remains the core of the program, the program has expanded to include workshops, seminars, the development of curriculum materials for teachers, and summer internships for students.

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

(c) Thousands of people across our nation support the NHD program by serving as contest judges, workshop presenters, mentors, and advisors to students. Many individuals based at colleges and universities, historical agencies, and educational organizations support the program by serving as state and district coordinators, directing programs in their areas.

(d) The NHD program serves as an important vehicle to teach students important literacy skills and to engage them in the use and understanding of museum and library resources. The program inspires students to study local history and challenges them to expand their thinking and to apply their knowledge of local events to the national or international scene. The program also teaches students to become technologically literate through the use of computer and internet research methods and through the application of technologically advanced methods to their presentations. The program teaches young students the writing, analytical, and reading comprehension skills that provide the foundation for adult success, regardless of their career path.

(e) For more than twenty-five years, the NHD program has promoted systemic educational reform related to the teaching and learning of history in America's schools. The combination of creativity and scholarship built into the program anticipated current educational reforms, making the program a model of performance-based learning.

(f) "Colorado History Day" (CHD) is the Colorado state affiliate of NHD.

(g) For over twenty years, CHD has been hosted and sponsored by the university of Colorado at Boulder. As a result of funding cuts realized by the state university system, the university administration has reduced the funds that support CHD by thirty-five to fifty percent for the fiscal year commencing July 2003.

(2) The general assembly further finds and declares that:

(a) Without additional state funding, the CHD program may be discontinued, thereby depriving thousands of school children in Colorado of the opportunity to participate in the program and to obtain the many benefits such participation provides for them, their schools, and communities.

(b) Section 22-1-104, Colorado Revised Statutes, makes it a requirement of state law that the history and civil government of the state of Colorado and of the United States be taught in all public schools of this state. The CHD program implements and fulfills this statutory requirement for many of Colorado's elementary and secondary schoolchildren.

(3) The general assembly intends by this act to require the Colorado department of education to assist the school districts of this state in offering on a long-term basis an academic enrichment program, whether in the form of CHD or a comparable program, that engages elementary and secondary students in the process of discovery and interpretation of historical topics. Such assistance creates the foundation for the long-term success and preservation of the CHD program.

**SECTION 2.** 22-1-104, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended BY THE

ADDITION OF A NEW SUBSECTION to read:

**22-1-104. Teaching of history, culture, and civil government.** (5) (a) IN AN EFFORT TO STRENGTHEN THE TEACHING OF THE HISTORY 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 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.

(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).

(c) IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT THE OBJECTIVES SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPH (a) OF THIS 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 ENGAGE SUCH STUDENTS IN THE PROCESS OF DISCOVERY AND INTERPRETATION OF HISTORICAL TOPICS ASSISTS THESE STUDENTS IN MEETING STATE ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND MAY THEREFORE BE FUNDED FROM MONEYS IN THE STATE EDUCATION FUND.

**SECTION 3. Appropriation.** In addition to any other appropriation, there is hereby appropriated, out of any moneys in the state education fund created in section 17 (4) of article IX of the state constitution not otherwise appropriated, to the department of education, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2004, the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), or so much thereof as may be necessary, for the implementation of this act.

**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.

Approved: May 21, 2004