



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB5289

Introduced 2/10/2026, by Rep. Justin Cochran

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/27-517 new

Amends the Courses of Study Article of the School Code. Provides that, beginning with the 2027-2028 school year, every public high school shall include in its curriculum a unit of instruction on civic engagement. Provides that, as part of the unit of instruction, students must attend an open meeting of the governing body of a special district, the corporate authorities of a municipality, the township board of a township, the county board of a county, or any similar governing or legislating body of a unit of government. Provides that, if physical attendance at such a meeting is not feasible, then attendance may be virtual.

LRB104 17991 LNS 31428 b

STATE MANDATES
ACT MAY REQUIRE
REIMBURSEMENT

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by adding Section
5 27-517 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/27-517 new)

7 Sec. 27-517. Civic engagement education. Beginning with
8 the 2027-2028 school year, every public high school shall
9 include in its curriculum a unit of instruction on civic
10 engagement. As part of the unit of instruction, students must
11 attend an open meeting of the governing body of a special
12 district, the corporate authorities of a municipality, the
13 township board of a township, the county board of a county, or
14 any similar governing or legislating body of a unit of
15 government. If physical attendance at such a meeting is not
16 feasible, then attendance may be virtual.