



102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

HB5858

Introduced 1/4/2023, by Rep. Denyse Wang Stoneback

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/27-23.17 new

Amends the Courses of Study Article of the School Code. Provides that a school district shall offer an extended course of study for students in grades 9 through 12 that includes instruction in: (1) the elections process for this State, for other states, and for the federal government, including instruction on the mechanisms in place to implement fair and honest elections for public offices; (2) distinguishing between ethical candidates and campaign practices and dirty, attack-style campaign practices; (3) the limitations of the regulation of truth in political advertising and political speech by the Federal Communications Commission and other governmental bodies; (4) identifying and understanding the role of funding sources and dark money in campaigns; (5) fostering critical thinking skills when reviewing electoral communications, researching candidates, and deciding whom to support; (6) seeing the importance of fairness and integrity in political campaigns, engaging with people with opposing viewpoints respectfully, and participating in elections as a part of an informed electorate; (7) evaluating the opportunities and limitations of participation in elections, voting, and the electoral process and the impact disenfranchisement has on elections, voting, and the electoral process; and (8) analyzing constitutions, laws, and agreements to determine the degree to which they achieve justice, equality, and liberty and the common good.

LRB102 29640 RJT 41667 b

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 27-23.17 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/27-23.17 new)

7 Sec. 27-23.17. Extended high school civics and an
8 elections education.

9 (a) In addition to the instruction required to be provided
10 under Sections 27-3 and 27-22, a school district maintaining
11 any of grades 9 through 12 shall offer an extended course of
12 study for students in these grades that includes instruction
13 in:

14 (1) the elections process for this State, for other
15 states, and for the federal government, including
16 instruction on the mechanisms in place to implement fair
17 and honest elections for public offices;

18 (2) distinguishing between ethical candidates and
19 campaign practices and dirty, attack-style campaign
20 practices;

21 (3) the limitations of the regulation of truth in
22 political advertising and political speech by the Federal
23 Communications Commission and other governmental bodies;

1 (4) identifying and understanding the role of funding
2 sources and dark money in campaigns;

3 (5) fostering critical thinking skills when reviewing
4 electoral communications, researching candidates, and
5 deciding whom to support;

6 (6) seeing the importance of fairness and integrity in
7 political campaigns, engaging with people with opposing
8 viewpoints respectfully, and participating in elections as
9 a part of an informed electorate;

10 (7) evaluating the opportunities and limitations of
11 participation in elections, voting, and the electoral
12 process and the impact disenfranchisement has on
13 elections, voting, and the electoral process; and

14 (8) analyzing constitutions, laws, and agreements to
15 determine the degree to which they achieve justice,
16 equality, and liberty and the common good.

17 This course of study may also include a practical
18 component, such as a mock election.