

# State of South Dakota

NINETY-FOURTH SESSION  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2019

668B0376

## HOUSE BILL NO. 1051

Introduced by: Representatives Deutsch, Beal, Brunner, Dennert, Finck, Glanzer, Goodwin, Greenfield (Lana), Gross, Jensen (Kevin), Johns, Johnson (David), Latterell, Mills, Otten (Herman), Perry, Peterson (Kent), Peterson (Sue), Rasmussen, Reed, Schoenfish, Steele, Willadsen, York, and Zikmund and Senators Bolin, Blare, Curd, DiSanto, Klumb, Maher, Nelson, Novstrup, Otten (Ernie), Rusch, Solano, Stalzer, Steinhauer, and Wiik

1 FOR AN ACT ENTITLED, An Act to establish the South Dakota state seal of civics literacy  
2 program.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

4 Section 1. That chapter 13-1 be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

5 There is established in the Department of Education the South Dakota state seal of civics  
6 literacy program. The purpose of the program is to recognize high school students who, upon  
7 graduating from high school, have attained a high level of proficiency in civics. The program  
8 is voluntary. Any school district, nonpublic school, or person providing alternative instruction  
9 to a student pursuant to § 13-27-3 may participate in the program by notifying the secretary of  
10 education. The program shall be implemented in the 2020-2021 school year.

11 Section 2. That chapter 13-1 be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

12 Each participating school district, nonpublic school, and person providing alternative  
13 instruction shall:



- 1       (1)   Identify each student who meets the requirements of the state seal of civics literacy  
2            program; and
- 3       (2)   Affix a reproduction of the seal of the State of South Dakota to the diploma and note  
4            the receipt of the seal on the grade transcript of each student who meets the program  
5            requirements.

6       Section 3. That chapter 13-1 be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

7       To implement the state seal of civics literacy program, the Department of Education shall  
8       deliver to each participating school district, nonpublic school, and person providing alternative  
9       instruction full color reproductions of the seal of the State of South Dakota in a size large  
10      enough for the state motto to be legible.

11      Section 4. That chapter 13-1 be amended by adding a NEW SECTION to read:

12      The Board of Education Standards shall, in rules promulgated pursuant to chapter 1-26,  
13      establish the requirements a student shall meet in order to be awarded a state seal of civics  
14      literacy. The requirements shall exceed the social studies requirements for graduation  
15      established by the board under § 13-1-12.1, and shall, at a minimum, include demonstrated  
16      competencies in the following:

- 17      (1)   An understanding of the basic principles of American democracy and how those  
18            principles are applied in a republican form of government;
- 19      (2)   An understanding of the Constitutions of the United States and of this state;
- 20      (3)   Knowledge of the founding documents and how those documents shape the nature  
21            and function of the government; and
- 22      (4)   An understanding of landmark United States Supreme Court cases and the impact of  
23            those cases on law and society.

24      In developing the requirements, the board shall review the best practices for civic learning

- 1 and engagement and solicit the advice of current classroom teachers who teach the subjects of
- 2 history or social science, including government, in a secondary school in the state.