

REFERENCE TITLE: public schools; civics instruction requirement

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-seventh Legislature
Second Regular Session
2026

SB 1572

Introduced by
Senators Finchem: Leach

AN ACT

AMENDING TITLE 15, CHAPTER 7, ARTICLE 1, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY
ADDING SECTION 15-710.03; RELATING TO SCHOOL CURRICULA.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Title 15, chapter 7, article 1, Arizona Revised
3 Statutes, is amended by adding section 15-710.03, to read:

4 15-710.03. Celebrate freedom week; instruction requirements;
5 policies and rules; definition

6 A. EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL SHALL OBSERVE CELEBRATE FREEDOM WEEK, DURING
7 WHICH THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SHALL INCLUDE ALL OF THE FOLLOWING IN EACH SOCIAL
8 STUDIES COURSE:

9 1. FOR EACH OF GRADES ONE THROUGH TWELVE, INSTRUCTION ON THE
10 ORIGINAL INTENT, MEANING AND IMPORTANCE OF THE FOLLOWING FOUNDING
11 DOCUMENTS AND THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF EACH DOCUMENT:

12 (a) THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

13 (b) THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION, INCLUDING THE BILL OF RIGHTS.

14 2. FOR EACH OF GRADES ONE THROUGH TWELVE, INSTRUCTION ON THE
15 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE IDEAS THAT ARE EXPRESSED IN THE DECLARATION OF
16 INDEPENDENCE AND EACH OF THE FOLLOWING TOPICS IN THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED
17 STATES:

18 (a) THE RICH DIVERSITY OF THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY AS A NATION OF
19 IMMIGRANTS.

20 (b) THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

21 (c) THE CREATION OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION.

22 (d) THE ABOLITIONIST MOVEMENT, INCLUDING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
23 THE ABOLITIONIST MOVEMENT AND THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION AND THE
24 WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT.

25 3. FOR EACH OF GRADES THREE THROUGH TWELVE, A RECITATION BY
26 STUDENTS OF THE PASSAGE OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE THAT IS
27 DESCRIBED IN SECTION 15-203, SUBSECTION A, PARAGRAPH 26. A STUDENT IS NOT
28 REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE RECITATION REQUIRED BY THIS PARAGRAPH IF
29 ANY OF THE FOLLOWING APPLIES:

30 (a) THE STUDENT'S PARENT REQUESTS IN WRITING THAT THE STUDENT BE
31 EXCUSED.

32 (b) THE SCHOOL DETERMINES THAT THE STUDENT HAS A CONSCIENTIOUS
33 OBJECTION TO THE RECITATION.

34 (c) THE STUDENT'S PARENT IS A REPRESENTATIVE OF A FOREIGN
35 GOVERNMENT TO WHOM THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT EXTENDS DIPLOMATIC
36 IMMUNITY.

37 B. THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION:

38 1. MAY ADOPT RULES AND POLICIES TO IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION.

39 2. SHALL ENSURE THAT PUBLIC SCHOOLS DO NOT CENSOR THE FOUNDING
40 DOCUMENTS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION A, PARAGRAPH 1 OF THIS SECTION TO
41 EXCLUDE RELIGIOUS REFERENCES.

1 C. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "CELEBRATE FREEDOM WEEK" MEANS
2 EITHER:
3 1. THE INSTRUCTIONAL WEEK THAT INCLUDES SEPTEMBER 17.
4 2. AN INSTRUCTIONAL WEEK DESIGNATED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE
5 PUBLIC SCHOOL.
6 Sec. 2. Short title
7 Section 15-710.03, Arizona Revised Statutes, as added by this act,
8 may be cited as the "Return to Civics Instruction Act".