



General Assembly

February Session, 2004

Raised Bill No. 5590

LCO No. 2045

02045_____GAE

Referred to Committee on Government Administration and Elections

Introduced by:
(GAE)

AN ACT CONCERNING CIVICS EDUCATION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2004) (a) As used in this section:
- 2 (1) "Civic engagement" means the participation of individuals and
3 families in voluntary activities that promote the democratic process
4 and the common good;
- 5 (2) "Intergenerational" means across more than one generation;
- 6 (3) "Parent leadership" means the capacity for parents to interact
7 within society with purpose and positive outcomes for children;
- 8 (4) "Youth leadership" means the capacity for children and youth to
9 develop skills for the public good in civics and community
10 strengthening; and
- 11 (5) "Eligible applicant" means a local educational agency, a public or
12 community library, a public or nonprofit community organization, a
13 museum or a collaboration of one or more of these entities.

14 (b) The Secretary of the State, in consultation with the Commission
15 on Children, shall establish a "Civics Grant Program" for the funding
16 of civics-related training and education, including, but not limited to,
17 family civics initiatives and intergenerational civics-related initiatives.
18 In administering such grant program, the Secretary of the State may
19 consult with any state or local philanthropic organization,
20 representative of the State Library, any organization representing
21 libraries and museums in the state, youth organizations that promote
22 leadership and any organization dedicated to civics, community and
23 family life. Any grant made by the Secretary of the State under such
24 program shall be used for those purposes described in subsection (d)
25 of this section and shall require a match of up to ten per cent by such
26 eligible applicant, one-half of which shall be in matching funds. The
27 Secretary of the State shall annually review such grant program for the
28 accomplishment of the application criteria required of such eligible
29 applicant, as described in subsection (c) of this section and shall
30 compile such review in a report to be submitted annually to the joint
31 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
32 matters relating to government administration and elections.

33 (c) Any eligible applicant seeking a grant under the Civics Grant
34 Program shall submit an application to the Secretary of the State in
35 such form as prescribed by the Secretary of the State. Such application
36 shall, at a minimum, indicate how the applicant's use of such funds
37 will contribute to democracy as measured by the following criteria: (1)
38 The knowledge and interest in how government works for the public
39 and the public good; (2) participation and response in the community
40 and the state as an active citizen; (3) the tenets of social and economic
41 fairness; (4) the importance of tolerance and global connectedness; and
42 (5) the opportunity to give back to society for the public good.
43 Additionally, each applicant shall also demonstrate a plan for
44 sustainability of the proposed initiative.

45 (d) Any grant awarded by the Secretary of the State pursuant to this
46 section shall be used for one or more of the following purposes:

47 (1) Civics-related training and education, either of the public in
48 general or of a specific community or group of citizens;

49 (2) Family civics initiatives, including parent leadership and youth
50 leadership initiatives. Such initiatives may include those initiatives that
51 enable parents to be civic leaders to improve the lives of their children
52 and others in their community, or that provide opportunities for youth
53 to participate and assume leadership in civic engagement in schools,
54 neighborhoods, towns and local youth advisory boards;

55 (3) Intergenerational civics-related initiatives, including those
56 initiatives that strengthen intergenerational dialogue and activity to
57 ensure civic participation across generations and to foster a sense of
58 safety, belonging, mentorship and purpose in the community;

59 (4) Coordination and exchange of cross-sector civic and leadership
60 opportunities that cut across boundaries of class and culture with
61 cross-sector partnerships;

62 (5) Engagement of multi-faceted communities in bringing
63 individuals, families and the public sector together to provide support
64 to communities and neighbors;

65 (6) Trainings in diversity that embrace the skills and understanding
66 of interconnectedness and global issues;

67 (7) The collection and dissemination of model civic initiatives and
68 policies, such as curricula for learning or reinforcing the practice of
69 civic engagement; or

70 (8) Research evaluation and dissemination related to any of the
71 purposes described in subdivisions (1) to (7), inclusive, of this
72 subsection.

73 (e) The Secretary of the State shall adopt regulations, in accordance
74 with chapter 54 of the general statutes, to implement the provisions of
75 this section.

76 Sec. 2. (Effective July 1, 2004) The sum of two hundred thousand
77 dollars is appropriated to the office of the Secretary of the State, from
78 the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2005, for the
79 purpose of funding and administering a Civics Grant Program.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2004</i>
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2004</i>

Statement of Purpose:

To establish a civics grant program.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]