



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 214**

February Session, 2006

House Bill No. 5520

*House of Representatives, March 29, 2006*

The Committee on Education reported through REP. FLEISCHMANN of the 18th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING DEMOCRACY EDUCATION IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.**

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

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 10-18 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
3 *1, 2006*):

4 (a) (1) All high, preparatory, secondary and elementary schools,  
5 public or private, whose property is exempt from taxation, shall  
6 provide a program of United States history, including instruction in  
7 United States government at the local, state and national levels, and in  
8 the duties, responsibilities, and rights of United States citizenship. No  
9 student shall be graduated from any such school who has not been  
10 found to be familiar with said subjects.

11 (2) For purposes of subdivision (1) of this subsection, elementary  
12 schools shall include in their fourth or fifth grade curriculum a  
13 program on democracy in which students engage in a participatory

14 manner in learning about all branches of government.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	10-18(a)

**ED**      *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

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**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:** None

**Municipal Impact:**

<b>Municipalities</b>	<b>Effect</b>	<b>FY 07 \$</b>	<b>FY 08 \$</b>
Local and Regional School Districts	None	None	None

**Explanation**

The requirement that students in either fourth or fifth grade engage in a participatory manner in learning about the branches of government can be achieved by all local and regional school districts without the need for additional financial resources.

**The Out Years**

There is no out-year impact associated with this bill.

**OLR Bill Analysis**

**HB 5520**

**AN ACT CONCERNING DEMOCRACY EDUCATION IN  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.**

**SUMMARY:**

The bill requires elementary schools to provide a program on democracy that allows students to learn about the branches of government in a participatory manner as part of their fourth or fifth grade curriculum. The program would be required as part of the existing law (1) requiring that all schools provide a United States history program and (2) prohibiting students from graduating from such schools if they are found to be unfamiliar with the subject.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2006

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Education Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 19    Nay 6    (03/10/2006)