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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **sHB 6760**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING CIVICS EDUCATION AND MEDIA LITERACY.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill adds the topics of civics and media literacy to the required social studies program of instruction in public schools, beginning on July 1, 2025 (i.e., the 2025-26 school year). By law, the State Board of Education (SBE) must make available curriculum and materials to help school boards develop their curriculum, including the required program of instruction.

Additionally, the bill creates the 16-member Connecticut Civics Education and Media Literacy Task Force to study how schools provide civics, citizenship, media literacy, and American government instruction to students. The bill charges the task force with the following duties at a minimum:

1. reviewing existing curricula and the high school graduation requirements;
2. receiving recommendations from educators, administrators, and the public and reviewing best practices; and
3. exploring the feasibility of establishing public and private partnerships to fund and support instruction enhancement in these subject areas.

The task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Education Committee by January 1, 2024. It terminates on the date it submits its report to the Education Committee or on January 1, 2024, whichever is later.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025, except the task force provisions take effect upon passage.

## **CIVICS EDUCATION AND MEDIA LITERACY TASK FORCE**

### ***Membership and Leadership Appointments***

The table below lists the task force membership qualifications under the bill and the appointing authorities.

**Table: Task Force Membership**

<b><i>Appointing Authority</i></b>	<b><i>Number of Appointments and Qualifications</i></b>
House speaker	One certified teacher or school administrator One other appointment
Senate president pro tempore	One certified teacher or school administrator One other appointment
House majority leader	One appointment
Senate majority leader	One appointment
House minority leader	One certified teacher or school administrator One other appointment
Senate minority leader	One certified teacher or school administrator One other appointment
Black and Puerto Rican Caucus chairperson	One appointment
Governor	One appointment
N/A	Secretary of the state or her designee
N/A	Education commissioner or her designee
N/A	Connecticut Supreme Court chief justice or his designee
N/A	Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity executive director or his designee

The bill specifies that any legislative appointee may be a member of the General Assembly. It also requires the appointing authorities in the table above to make their initial task force appointments within 30 days after the bill's passage. Should a vacancy arise, the appointing authority must fill it.

The bill requires the House speaker and Senate president pro tempore to choose the task force chairpersons from among its members. The chairpersons must schedule the task force's first meeting to be held within 60 days after the bill's passage.

Under the bill, the Education Committee's administrative staff must serve as the task force's administrative staff.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Education Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 33 Nay 8 (03/10/2023)