

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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REPRESENTATIVE WES KELLER DISTRICT 10

CS for House Bill 30 Sponsor Statement

"An Act requiring school districts to develop and require completion of a history of American constitutionalism curriculum segment; and providing for an effective date."

The Spanish American philosopher George Santayana once said "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." That statement today is critical to the future of our country. No longer do our youth not remember our past it is often completely overlooked by the education system. CS for House Bill 30 is written to return America's historical documents to the classroom.

CS for House Bill 30 will require the Alaska's Department of Education and/or organized school districts to implement curriculum segments within civic or history courses centering on 15 years of American History critical to the creation of our country. The program will concentrate on the documents that so many people have lived and died for over the past 239 years. Included in the course work will be an understanding of the Declaration of Independence, first state constitutions, Articles of Confederation, and the U.S. Constitution.

What this will accomplish is students who understand America, understand when we are being wronged, and understand why we proudly salute the Red, White, and Blue. This will be accomplished through a normal established education process determined at the local level.

While several school districts around the state are already teaching these documents in their established coursework, others are not. CS for House Bill 30 is legislation necessary to assure the principals that has made America and Alaska strong continues, despite the growth of opposition to our country and what it stands for from both foreign and domestic sources. Support of CS for House Bill 30 will make them aware that we understand our roots and will not repeat past mistakes.

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