

STATE OF ALASKA THE LEGISLATURE

2007

Source

SCS CSHCR 6(SED)

**Legislative
Resolve No.**

15



Relating to civics education and a citizens' advisory task force.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS Alaskans place a high value on meaningful civic learning in our schools;
and

WHEREAS it is the responsibility of each generation of Americans to teach the next
generation how democracy works; and

WHEREAS research shows that, although Alaska has some examples of excellence in
civics education, there has been a steady decline in the attention paid to advancing civic
learning opportunities, locally, statewide, and nationally; and

WHEREAS curricula or programs that integrate national, state, and local civics
content into reading, writing, and math instruction can successfully engage students in civic
learning without diminishing attention to tested subjects; and

WHEREAS the final report of the Alaska Civic Learning Assessment Project, dated
November 2006, recommended 10 ways in which civics education could be advanced in
Alaska; and

WHEREAS one recommendation of the volunteer group was the creation of a

statewide entity to review Alaska's civics standards for propriety and accuracy, assist in teacher professional development, and develop incentive and reward programs for exemplary schools and teachers; and

WHEREAS the Alaska State Legislature endorses the importance of improving civics education in our public schools and supports the creation of a citizens' advisory task force;

BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that a Citizens' Advisory Task Force on Civics Education Policy is established in the legislative branch to review Alaska's content standards for civics education, recommend well-articulated civics curricula, and propose effective professional development strategies for teachers in a comprehensive fashion; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Citizens' Advisory Task Force on Civics Education Policy consists of six appointed members and includes additional members as recommended by the leader of the Alaska Civic Learning Assessment Project; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives shall each appoint two members, the Governor shall appoint one member, and the commissioner of education and early development shall appoint one member who is an employee of the Department of Education and Early Development to serve on the Citizens' Advisory Task Force on Civics Education Policy; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report back to the legislature and the Alaska Board of Education and Early Development on or before the 30th day of the Second Session of the Twenty-Fifth Alaska State Legislature on ways to implement the recommendations of the Alaska Civic Learning Assessment Project; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the six appointed members of the citizens' advisory task force may receive compensation for per diem or reimbursement for travel or other expenses incurred by serving on the task force.