

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 50

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1
2 STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND REQUESTING THAT THE STATE BOARD OF
3 EDUCATION ADOPT RULES TO PROVIDE FOR IDAHO STATE GOVERNMENT AND IDAHO
4 HISTORY QUESTIONS FOR THE CIVICS TEST GIVEN TO HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS
5 STARTING WITH THE 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR.

6 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

7 WHEREAS, in 2015 the Legislature passed Senate Bill No. 1071, which re-
8 quires graduating seniors from high school to pass a civics test starting
9 with the 2016-17 school year and requires that school districts or public
10 charter schools must use the one hundred questions from the test taken by
11 naturalized citizens or a test of their own design; and

12 WHEREAS, sadly, only two out of the one hundred questions on the citi-
13 zenship test relate specifically to Idaho government or history; and

14 WHEREAS, since we are citizens of both the United States and the
15 sovereign State of Idaho, it seems appropriate that any such test should
16 also contain questions relating to Idaho, as state and local governments are
17 generally closest to the people; and

18 WHEREAS, we encourage the State Board of Education through rulemaking
19 to add at least twenty-five questions, or at least twenty percent of the
20 test, specifically relating to Idaho government or history to the civics
21 test beginning with the 2017-18 school year; and

22 WHEREAS, it is hoped that by adding these questions about Idaho gov-
23 ernment and history, teachers will be encouraged to teach more about Idaho,
24 her culture, her history, her diversity, her beauty, her resources and her
25 greatness.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular
27 Session of the Sixty-third Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives
28 and the Senate concurring therein, that the State Board of Education is re-
29 quested to adopt rules to provide that at least twenty-five questions, or
30 at least twenty percent of the test, relating specifically to Idaho state
31 government or history be included with the civics test beginning in the
32 2017-18 school year, and we request that such rules allow school districts or
33 public charter schools, if they conduct their own test, to develop their own
34 questions, provided that at least twenty-five questions, or at least twenty
35 percent of the test, is based on specific questions that relate to Idaho
36 government and history.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Board of Education shall give a re-
38 port to the First Regular Session of the Sixty-fourth Idaho Legislature as to
39 the questions included in its rules and other matters regarding this impor-
40 tant topic.