

House Resolution 303

By: Representative Buckner of the 137<sup>th</sup>

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the State Board of Education to develop and implement comprehensive civics  
2 education curricula to improve students' civic knowledge, skills, and attitudes; and for other  
3 purposes.

4 WHEREAS, Americans have become increasingly disengaged from our civic and political  
5 institutions; and

6 WHEREAS, Americans under the age of 25 are less likely to vote or otherwise participate  
7 in the electoral process than their older counterparts or young people of past decades; and

8 WHEREAS, school-based civics education has declined over a period of decades. As many  
9 as three secondary school courses in democracy, civics, and government were commonly  
10 required until the 1960's; and

11 WHEREAS, in addition to knowing and understanding that citizens have legal rights, such  
12 as Miranda rights, when interacting with law enforcement, students must also understand that  
13 they have responsibilities as law abiding citizens; and

14 WHEREAS, our schools must provide students with the knowledge they need to become  
15 good citizens, including instruction in American government, history, law, and democracy;  
16 and

17 WHEREAS, such instruction should include: classroom discussion of current local, national,  
18 and international issues and events; community service opportunities linked to the formal  
19 curriculum and classroom instruction; extracurricular activities for young people to get  
20 involved in their schools or communities; student participation in school governance; and  
21 student participation in simulations of democratic processes and procedures; and

22 WHEREAS, schools should also include teaching students the operation of the court system,  
23 the indictment process, and the purpose and function of grand juries; and

24 WHEREAS, our students should be equipped with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that  
25 will prepare them to be competent and responsible citizens throughout their lives.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
27 the members of this body urge the State Board of Education to develop and implement  
28 comprehensive civics education curricula to improve students' civic knowledge, skills, and  
29 attitudes.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
31 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the  
32 State Board of Education.