

ACT No. 596

Regular Session, 2004

SENATE BILL NO. 11

BY SENATOR THEUNISSEN AND REPRESENTATIVE RICHMOND

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AN ACT

To enact Chapter 19 of Title 24 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 24:971 through 974, relative to the Louisiana Commission on Civic Education; to establish the commission; to provide for membership; to provide for purposes of the commission; to provide relative to funding; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. Chapter 19 of Title 24 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, to be comprised of R.S. 24:971 through 974, is hereby enacted to read as follows:

CHAPTER 19. LOUISIANA COMMISSION ON CIVIC EDUCATION

Chapter 19 is all new law.

§971. Louisiana Commission on Civic Education; creation; purpose

R.S. 24:971 is all new law.

A. The Louisiana Commission on Civic Education, hereinafter referred to as "commission," is hereby established.

B. The purposes of the commission shall include the following:

(1) To educate students on the importance of citizen involvement in a representative democracy.

(2) To promote communication and collaboration among organizations in the state that conduct civic education programs.

1 §972. Membership; meetings; compensation; staff

2 R.S. 24:972 is all new law.

3 A. The commission shall consist of the following members:

4 (1) The governor, or his designee.

5 (2) The lieutenant governor, or his designee.

6 (3) The state attorney general, or his designee.

7 (4) The secretary of state, or his designee.

8 (5) The president of the Senate, or his designee.

9 (6) The speaker of the House of Representatives, or his designee.

10 (7) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Education, or his designee.

11 (8) The chairman of the House Committee on Education, or his designee.

12 (9) The state superintendent of education, or his designee.

13 (10) The president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
14 Education, or his designee.

15 (11) One state coordinator of the Louisiana Legislators Back to School
16 Program, to represent the Senate program, appointed by the president of the Senate.

17 (12) One state coordinator of the Louisiana Legislators Back to School
18 Program, to represent the House of Representatives program, appointed by the
19 speaker of the House of Representatives.

20 (13) The state coordinator of Project Citizen.

21 (14) The executive director of the Public Affairs Research Council.

22 (15) The executive director of the Council for a Better Louisiana.

23 (16) One member to represent Louisiana Public Broadcasting, appointed by
24 the executive director of the Louisiana Public Broadcasting Corporation.

25 (17) One member to represent the League of Women Voters, appointed by
26 the League of Women Voters of Louisiana.

27 (18) One member to represent the Louisiana Press Association and the
28 Louisiana Association of Broadcasters, appointed by the president of each
29 association, acting jointly.

1 (19) One member to represent the Louisiana Center for Law and Civic
2 Education, appointed by the president of its board of directors.

3 (20) One member to represent the Louisiana Association of Non-Profit
4 Organizations, appointed by the chairman of the Louisiana Association of Non-Profit
5 Organizations.

6 (21) One member to represent the Louisiana Chapter of the National
7 Association for the Advancement of Colored People, appointed by the president of
8 the Louisiana Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored
9 People.

10 (22) The chairman of the Louisiana Serve Commission, or his designee.

11 B. The members of the commission shall elect a chairman, vice chairman, and
12 such other officers as it shall determine. The commission may establish such
13 committees as it deems necessary to carry out its functions.

14 C. A member of the commission shall serve without compensation for his
15 services, but may be reimbursed for reasonable and necessary travel and other
16 expenses actually incurred on business of the commission provided such
17 reimbursement is authorized and paid by the appointing authority.

18 D. The commission shall hold at least two meetings each year, and may hold
19 other meetings upon the call of the chairman or majority of the members. The initial
20 meeting of the commission shall be called by the president of the Senate and the
21 speaker of the House of Representatives, acting jointly.

22 E. Staff and facilities needed by the commission to accomplish its purposes
23 shall be provided by the legislature from its existing resources.

24 §973. Powers and functions

25 **R.S. 24:973 is all new law.**

26 A. The commission shall:

27 (1) Develop and coordinate outreach programs in collaboration with schools
28 to educate students on the importance of understanding the following:

29 (a) That representative democracy is a process dependent on reasoned debate,

1 good faith negotiation, and compromise.

2 (b) That individual involvement is a critical factor in community success.

3 (c) That consideration and respect of others must be shown when deliberating,
4 negotiating, and advocating positions on public concerns.

5 (2) Identify civic education projects in Louisiana and provide technical
6 assistance as may be needed to such programs.

7 (3) Build a network of civic education professionals to share information and
8 strengthen partnerships.

9 (4) Develop, in consultation with entities having representatives on the
10 commission and others as determined by the commission, a clearinghouse which
11 shall be available on the Internet and which shall include but not be limited to the
12 following:

13 (a) A database of civic education resources, lesson plans, and other programs
14 of best practices in civic education.

15 (b) A bulletin board to promote discussion on and exchange of ideas relative
16 to civic education.

17 (c) An events calendar.

18 (d) Links to civic education research.

19 (5) Value and support successful civic education programs in the state and
20 encourage expansion of such efforts.

21 (6) Prepare and provide an annual report of activities to the governor and to
22 the legislature.

23 §974. Funding

24 **R.S. 24:974 is all new law.**

25 To achieve the purposes of this Chapter, the commission may seek, accept,
26 and expend monies from any source, including donations, state appropriations, and
27 federal grants and may seek, accept, and use services from individuals, corporations,
28 and governmental entities.

29 Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not

1 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
2 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
3 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
4 effective on the day following such approval.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: _____