



State of Wisconsin
2021 - 2022 LEGISLATURE

LRB-3871/1
KRP:kjf

2021 SENATE BILL 459

July 21, 2021 - Introduced by Senators ROYS, SMITH, AGARD, LARSON, RINGHAND and L. TAYLOR, cosponsored by Representatives HINTZ, SNODGRASS, SHELTON, ANDERSON, ANDRACA, BALDEH, BROSTOFF, CABRERA, CONLEY, DRAKE, EMERSON, HEBL, HESSELBEIN, B. MEYERS, NEUBAUER, POPE, SINICKI, SPREITZER, STUBBS, SUBECK and VRUWINK. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 **AN ACT to create** 115.28 (55s), 118.40 (2r) (b) 2. m., 118.40 (2x) (b) 2. m. and
2 121.02 (1) (L) 9. of the statutes; **relating to:** requiring voter education
3 instruction in the elementary and high school grades and incorporating voter
4 education instruction into the state model social studies standards.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill requires school boards and operators of independent charter schools to include, as part of the social studies curriculum, at least one hour of voter education instruction in each elementary and high school grade. The bill specifies specific information that must be provided to pupils in the elementary grades, middle school grades, and high school grades. The bill also requires the state superintendent of public instruction to incorporate voter education instruction into the model academic standards for social studies and to develop model curriculum on the same subject.

For further information see the state and local fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

5 **SECTION 1.** 115.28 (55s) of the statutes is created to read:

SENATE BILL 459**SECTION 1**

1 115.28 **(55s)** VOTER EDUCATION INSTRUCTION; MODEL STANDARDS AND CURRICULUM.

2 (a) Incorporate voter education instruction into the model academic standards for
3 social studies.

4 (b) Develop a model curriculum for pupils in grades kindergarten to 12 on voter
5 education instruction.

6 **SECTION 2.** 118.40 (2r) (b) 2. m. of the statutes is created to read:

7 118.40 **(2r)** (b) 2. m. A requirement that the charter school's curriculum include
8 the instruction required under s. 121.02 (1) (L) 9.

9 **SECTION 3.** 118.40 (2x) (b) 2. m. of the statutes is created to read:

10 118.40 **(2x)** (b) 2. m. A requirement that the charter school's curriculum include
11 the instruction required under s. 121.02 (1) (L) 9.

12 **SECTION 4.** 121.02 (1) (L) 9. of the statutes is created to read:

13 121.02 **(1)** (L) 9. Beginning July 1, 2022, as part of the social studies
14 curriculum, include at least one hour of voter education instruction in each
15 elementary and high school grade. The instruction shall include all of the following:

16 a. In the elementary grades, information on how the electoral process works,
17 information on the importance of voting, mock elections, and information on who is
18 eligible to vote.

19 b. In the middle school and high school grades, in addition to the information
20 required under subd. 9. a. or 9. c., so far as applicable, information on the
21 requirements and procedures for voting in-person and absentee, information on how
22 pupils may locate reliable information about political candidates and issues, and the
23 Internet site addresses for official state government voting resources, including the
24 elections commission's Internet site.

