

Senator Aaron Osmond proposes the following substitute bill:

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON COMMON CORE

STANDARDS

2012 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Aaron Osmond

House Sponsor: LaVar Christensen

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This concurrent resolution of the Legislature and the Governor urges the State Board of Education to reconsider the board's decision to adopt the Common Core standards.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

- urges the State Board of Education to reconsider the board's decision to adopt the Common Core standards and, in reconsidering the decision, evaluate the cost, control, and quality of Utah standards in comparison to the cost, control, and quality of the Common Core standards.

Special Clauses:

None

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:

WHEREAS, high student performance is fundamentally linked to an overall reform of the public education system through a strong system of accountability and transparency built on state standards;

WHEREAS, the responsibility for the upbringing and education of children lies with



26 parents, supported by local school boards, and the state government;

27 WHEREAS, Utah has an obligation to control Utah's core curriculum, the state of Utah
28 shall maintain the right to modify its education curriculum without being subject to an entity
29 outside our state;

30 WHEREAS, in 2009 and 2010, the state was offered the chance to compete for
31 education funding through the Race to the Top (RTTT) program created by the United States
32 Department of Education;

33 WHEREAS, the only way to achieve a score in the RTTT competition sufficient to
34 qualify for funding was to agree to participate in a consortium of states working toward jointly
35 developing and adopting a common set of kindergarten through grade 12 curriculum standards;

36 WHEREAS, the only common set of kindergarten through grade 12 curriculum
37 standards is the set of standards developed through the Common Core State Standards
38 Initiative, which was created without a grant of authority from any state;

39 WHEREAS, locally elected officials, school leaders, teachers, and parents were not
40 adequately included in the discussion, evaluation, and preparation of the Common Core
41 standards;

42 WHEREAS, citizens and elected officials want additional review of, or comment on,
43 the Common Core standards and stakeholders in the Utah educational system were not offered
44 sufficient opportunity to review, comment on, and modify standards before adoption;

45 WHEREAS, no empirical evidence indicates that centralized education standards result
46 in higher student achievement;

47 WHEREAS, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) currently allows
48 comparisons of academic achievement to be made across states without the necessity of
49 imposing national standards or curricula;

50 WHEREAS, standards imposed by groups or entities outside of Utah will impair the
51 ability of local stakeholders to innovate and continue to make improvement over time;

52 WHEREAS, Race to the Top funding for states is limited, and \$350 million for
53 consortia to develop new assessments aligned with the Common Core standards is not
54 sufficient to cover the costs of overhauling state accountability systems, which includes
55 implementation of standards and testing, associated professional development, and curriculum
56 restructuring;

57 WHEREAS, all entities, public and private, that receive taxpayer funds either directly
58 or in the form of a grant, stipend, or any other means are accountable to Utah taxpayers, and the
59 State Board of Education is required annually to post on the Utah Public Finance Website
60 created in Section 63A-3-402, any funds received or spent on development of Utah's core
61 curriculum as a result of the Common Core;

62 WHEREAS, the centralized decision making that governs the Common Core standards
63 is vulnerable to manipulation by special interest groups who over time may seek to lower the
64 rigor and quality of the standards;

65 WHEREAS, the United States Constitution, which recognizes Utah as a sovereign
66 republic, acknowledges that the federal government has no educational mandate or authority
67 and allows the states to direct their own education systems;

68 WHEREAS, Utah should neither relinquish nor cede control of our education system to
69 a consortium of other states or to the federal government; and

70 WHEREAS, Utah is a governing member of the Smarter Balance Assessment
71 Consortium (SBAC) and, as such, is required to use SBAC assessments with the Common
72 Core standards:

73 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the
74 Governor concurring therein, urges the State Board of Education to reconsider the board's
75 decision to adopt the Common Core standards and, in reconsidering the board's decision,
76 evaluate the cost, control, and quality of Utah standards and assessments compared to the cost,
77 control, and quality of the Common Core standards and SBAC assessments.

78 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor requests the State
79 Board of Education to make publicly available on the State Board of Education's website an
80 evaluation comparing the cost, control, and quality of Utah standards and assessments to the
81 cost, control, and quality of the Common Core standards and SBAC assessments.