

Representative LaVar Christensen proposes the following substitute bill:

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON NATIONAL 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, and update as may be necessary, the board's decision to adopt the Common Core standards.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

► urges the State Board of Education to reconsider, and update as may be necessary, the board's earlier decision to adopt the Common Core standards and, in reconsidering the decision, evaluate the cost, control, content, and quality of Utah standards in comparison to the cost, control, and quality of the national 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



26 state standards;

27 WHEREAS, the responsibility for the upbringing and education of children lies with
28 parents, supported by local school boards, and the state government;

29 WHEREAS, Utah has an obligation to control Utah's core curriculum, and has the right
30 to modify its education curriculum without being dependent on, or subject to an entity outside
31 our state;

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

35 WHEREAS, the application contemplated and required a consortium of states to work
36 toward jointly developing and adopting a common set of kindergarten through grade 12
37 curriculum standards;

38 WHEREAS, the common set of kindergarten through grade 12 curriculum standards
39 developed through the "Common Core State Standards" (Common Core) was created without a
40 grant of authority or formal consent from any state;

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

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

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, funding is limited to develop new assessments aligned with the Common
51 Core standards and is insufficient to cover the costs of overhauling state accountability
52 systems, which includes implementation of standards and testing, associated professional
53 development, and curriculum restructuring;

54 WHEREAS, all entities, public and private, that receive taxpayer funds either directly
55 or in the form of a grant, stipend, or any other means are accountable to Utah taxpayers, and the
56 State Board of Education is required annually to post on the Utah Public Finance Website

57 created in Section 63A-3-402, any funds received or spent on development of Utah's core
58 curriculum as a result of the Common Core;

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

62 WHEREAS, Utah was an early leader in objecting to the federal mandates of No Child
63 Left Behind (NCLB) and other federal attempts to interfere with states' rights to control their
64 own public education systems;

65 WHEREAS, Utah does not relinquish nor cede control of our education system to a
66 consortium of other states or to the federal government;

67 WHEREAS, the state is free to fully research and consider all available research, data,
68 experience, principles, and proposals that may lead to continuing improvement and progress in
69 its public education system;

70 WHEREAS, the Governor, the Legislature, and the State Board of Education are
71 engaged in joint efforts to advance education reforms and innovation, which will be enhanced
72 by the required review and reconsideration;

73 WHEREAS, Utah is a governing member of the Smarter Balance Assessment
74 Consortium (SBAC) and, as such, is required to use SBAC assessments with the Common
75 Core standards; and

76 WHEREAS, the State Board of Education has notified the United States Secretary of
77 Education, and the Secretary has confirmed that the federal government acknowledges that
78 Utah is free to maintain the state's independence from all actual, or potential directives or
79 mandates from the federal government in relation to Utah's public education system and the
80 Common Core:

81 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the
82 Governor concurring therein, urges the State Board of Education to reconsider, and update as
83 may be necessary, the board's earlier decision to adopt the Common Core standards and, in
84 reconsidering the board's decision, evaluate the cost, control, content, and quality of Utah
85 standards and assessments compared to the cost, control, content, and quality of the Common
86 Core standards and SBAC assessments, and the extent to which the state has maintained the
87 state's independence as the sole governing authority for the state's public education system.

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