

Representative Mark A. Wheatley proposes the following substitute bill:

JOINT RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING LEGISLATORS TO PROVIDE

INSTRUCTION IN CIVICS

2024 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Mark A. Wheatley

Senate Sponsor: Karen Kwan

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This resolution encourages legislators to visit students in classrooms to teach the students about the legislative process.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

- ▶ highlights the importance of teaching about civic engagement and the legislative process to students; and
- ▶ encourages Utah's legislators to visit schools and teach students about their role as legislators and the legislative process.

Special Clauses:

None

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

WHEREAS, an engaged and informed citizenry is foundational to this great American experiment;

WHEREAS, a thorough understanding of state and national systems of government and the role of civic engagement in the democratic process is particularly important in an



26 increasingly divided political climate;

27 WHEREAS, understanding the legislative process, our system of government, and the
28 role of civic engagement in a democracy is an important part of preparing Utah's youth to
29 become the next generation of voters and civic leaders;

30 WHEREAS, because of their role as civic leaders, Utah's legislators are uniquely
31 positioned to teach students about the state's government and legislative process, explain the
32 role and responsibilities of legislators, and explain the crucial role of civic participation;

33 WHEREAS, Utah's legislators have a history of engaging students in the classroom,
34 which is a valuable experience for legislators and students alike; and

35 WHEREAS, the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) provides a wide
36 variety of educational resources legislators can use during school visits to teach students about
37 the legislative process:

38 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature urges each member of
39 the Legislature to actively engage with students and schools in their districts and teach these
40 students about representative democracy and the legislative process.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature encourages legislators to use
42 NCSL's civics education resources and materials when visiting classrooms.