

2013 SENATE EDUCATION

SB 2155

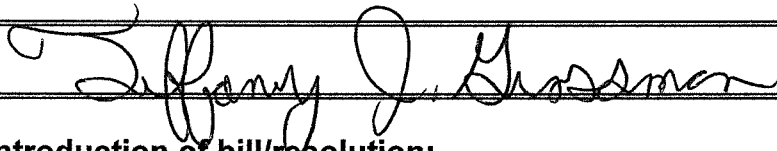
2013 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Education Committee
Missouri River Room, State Capitol

SB 2155
1-23-13
17563

☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to High School Graduation requirements

Minutes:

Written Testimony Attached

Chairman Flakoll opened the hearing on SB 2155

Senator Campbell: This is changing world history as required instead of an elective course. I would encourage a do pass.

Bill Jahrus, Grafton High School Teacher: I wish to testify in support of SB 2155. (See attachment #1 for written testimony)

Senator Heckaman: What grades do you teach?

Bill Jahrus, Grafton High School Teacher: I teach 10th grade world history, 11th grade US history and dual credit courses to US history students in Grafton High School through Lake Region.

Chairman Flakoll: How many districts in the state don't require world history for graduation?

Bill Jahrus, Grafton High School Teacher: The number has dropped to 7 that don't require it but that is too many. All students should take world history not most students.

Representative Mike Schatz, former Social Studies Teacher: I want to appear in favor of SB 2155. The substitute classes that can replace world history were psychology, multicultural studies, and sociology. Those are important as well but world history is a core. In order to understand the people of the world you need to study world history.

Larry Gaardner, Park River High School: I wish to testify in support of SB 2155. (See attachment #2 for written testimony) stopped at 28:30

Joyce Kingsbury, former Representative, District 19: I wish to testify in support of SB 2155. (See attachment #3 for written testimony)

Dakota Draper, President of the North Dakota Association of Educators: I came to this room to testify in opposition but after a conversation with my colleagues who testified before me, I switched to in favor. I am also a history teacher and a history major. I have taught the other subject that were crossed out except for multicultural studies. I hear their arguments and would not be a good leader if I opposed it so I support it.

Chairman Flakoll: How might this affect staffing if this were to pass?

Dakota Draper, President of the North Dakota Association of Educators: I am not in a position to answer that.

Senator Heckaman: What classes would be required to meet those benchmarks?

Dakota Draper, President of the North Dakota Association of Educators: World History would meet a lot of those requirements. Those have changed slightly but I trust the committee to help schools and districts meet those requirements.

Chairman Flakoll: Does anyone wish to testify in opposition to SB 2155.

Bev Nielson, North Dakota Council of Association of Educational Leaders: We are in opposition with SB 2155 not because we disagree with anything anyone has said but our fear is that every session we will come back and someone's favorite subject will be required for graduation to the point where kids have no choices. That is why we will oppose bills that want their course to be a required course.

Senator Luick: The core courses are set up for a purpose to get that standard foundation. If there is time for the extracurriculars they have that option. If we allow choices for a certain point, they would all be physical education or music. Do you agree?

Bev Nielson, North Dakota Council of Association of Educational Leaders: It may be arguable what should be included in the foundation and what should be the choice of the child. That is a very important part of education if you want kids to like school.

John Martinson with the North Dakota School Boards Association: I would like to testify in opposition of SB 2155. We like the law the way it is right now and feel it leads to a more well-rounded individual.

Matt Strinden, Director of Teacher and School Effectiveness for the DPI: As a department we are opposed to this so we don't limit the districts (See attachment #4 for written testimony)

Chairman Flakoll: Closed the hearing on SB 2155

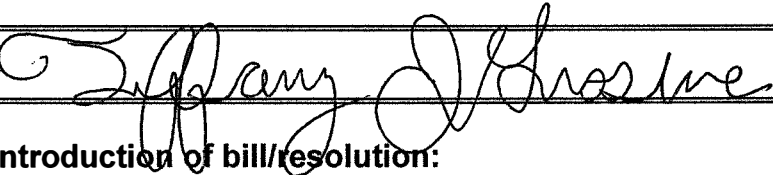
2013 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Education Committee
Missouri River Room, State Capitol

SB 2155
1-23-13
17610

☐ Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to high school graduation requirements

Minutes:

Starting at 3:05 on recording

You may make reference to "attached testimony."

Chairman Flakoll Opened the hearing on SB 2155.

Senator Heckaman: I think we need to leave this up to local choice. I think we would find a lot of students probably are taking world history.

Senator Heckaman: I move a Do Not pass on SB 2155.

Senator Luick: Second

Senator Luick: The testimony in support of the bill was very moving and I felt that we need requirements on a foundation but after realizing there were only 7 or 8 districts that don't require it, I am changing my mind and I can see that as it is today it is okay.

Chairman Flakoll: The point that was brought up about when you mandate a subject, you take away the electives. In 2009 they said it could damper the student's option and it did not pass. I would like to point out that if we were to pass this as it is, the seven districts that don't have world history required now could become ineligible for the scholarship.

A roll call vote was taken for a Do Not Pass: 6 yeas, 0 neas, 0 absent.

2155

Date: 1-23-13
Roll Call Vote #: ~~1-23-13~~ #12013 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE
ROLL CALL VOTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO.

Senate Education Committee☐ Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number

Action Taken

Do Not Pass

Motion Made By

Heckaman

Seconded By

Luick

Senators	Yes	No	Senator	Yes	No
Chairman Tim Flakoll	✓		Senator Joan Heckaman	✓	
Vice Chairman Donald Schaible	✓		Senator Richard Marcellais	✓	
Senator Larry Luick	✓				
Senator Nicole Poolman	✓				

Total (Yes)

6

No

0

Absent

0

Floor Assignment

Heckaman

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

SB 2155: Education Committee (Sen. Flakoll, Chairman) recommends **DO NOT PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2155 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2013 TESTIMONY

SB 2155



In Support of Senate Bill 2155

Mr. Chairman, members of the Senate Education Committee: I am Bill Jahraus, a social studies teacher from Grafton High School and a dual-credit instructor with Lake Region State College. I have taught world history as well as many other social studies courses in Grafton since 1970. For many years I have served as department chairman. I have a BA degree in history-political science from Concordia College and a MA degree in American history from UND. I worked as an archeologist in Israel during the summer of 1971. World history has been my passion since I can remember. I am here to support the students of North Dakota and Senate Bill 2155.

SB 2155 restores world history as a requirement for high school graduation. World history was removed as a requirement for high school graduation by HB 1400 in the 2009 session. World history was replaced by government and economics (or Problems of Democracy) as a requirement and then was placed in a “basket” of electives from which school districts could choose to fulfill a third social studies requirement for graduation. Now, I don’t have a problem with requiring government and economics as a requirement for graduation, but I do feel that it was wrong to drop world history as a requirement because it is the *foundation* for both US history and US government. It’s like dropping biology from the science curriculum or algebra from the math curriculum. World history is too important to be an elective!

“FLAT” WORLD SB 2155 will help prepare our students for living in a “flat” world. Our world is shrinking; it is becoming ever more interdependent. We live in a global economy. Students around the world are studying English and American history so that they can better understand us and communicate more effectively with us. Our students need to know more of the world’s history so that they can function more effectively in the world. They need a world perspective – not just a provincial one.

STANDARDS & BENCHMARKS SB 2155 will help ND schools meet ND Social Studies Standards. I have perused the ND Social Studies Content and Achievement Standards and have discovered that the study of world history will definitely help our students meet or exceed most of the basic standards. The six standards include 44 benchmark expectations. After analyzing the 44 benchmarks, I found that world history will help students reach at least 28 of those benchmarks (64%). This shows that world history plays a major role in helping our students master our state’s content and achievement standards. The only other course that compares to world history is US history, which covers 29 benchmarks (66%). No other social studies course comes close to providing our students with the opportunities to master our state’s social studies standards and benchmarks.

READING SCORES SB 2155 will help improve our students' reading scores. World history provides students with a rich and new vocabulary of persons, places, ideas, movements, and events. It opens up a whole new world for them! In GHS, for example, world history students have increased their NWEA reading scores nearly four points each year for the past four years. (Average growth is expected to be one or two points from fall to spring.)

UNIFORM CURRICULUM SB 2155 will help establish a more uniform social studies curriculum across the state. Students who take world history, US history, and government-economics will all be on the same track. If they transfer from one ND school to another, they will find it much easier to be in the same course and in the same sequence of study. ND schools will still have the opportunity to offer social studies electives. For example, many schools offer psychology and sociology as social studies electives.

CORE COURSE SB 2155 will help ND students learn more about the world's rich history (the "human story")—from prehistoric man through the modern age. If world history is not required, where will our students learn about early man, the Neolithic revolution, the first civilizations, ancient Egypt, ancient Sumer, Ancient Greece and Ancient Rome? Where will they learn about the origins of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam? Where will they learn about the Byzantine Empire, the rise of Russia, the Middle Ages, feudalism, the manor system, and the medieval church? Where will they learn about the origins of constitutional government, the Magna Carta, Model Parliament, and the emergence of Common Law? What about the Crusades, castles, and cathedrals? Where will they learn about the Age of Discovery, the Renaissance, the Reformation, Age of Absolutism, the Enlightenment, the Agricultural Revolution, the Industrial Revolution, the French Revolution and Napoleon? Where will they learn about the rise of 19th century nationalism, imperialism, and the origins of socialism and communism? What about the background for WWI, the Russian Revolution (Lenin, Stalin, Trotsky), the rise of fascism in Germany, Italy, Spain, and Japan (Hitler, Mussolini, Franco, Tojo), and the background for WWII? What about the origins of the Cold War, the emergence of Israel, the rise of communist China under Mao, and the backgrounds for the Korean War and the Vietnam War? Where will they learn about the collapse of communism, the end of apartheid, and the rise of militant Islam? This is an abbreviated list of topics that I feel *all* of our students should be exposed to. If they are not, their education will be incomplete—and some may never have the opportunity to learn about such things again. Upon graduation will they be "Career Ready," "College Ready," "Citizen Ready"?

So I am hopeful that the state legislature will restore world history as a requirement in ND schools. It is too important to be left out! It's essential for our students' education! Our students and our state will be the beneficiaries. World history teaches lessons that we don't dare forget! Please support SB 2155 and be on "the right side of history!" Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

#2

Larry Gaarder
Park River High School
Park River, ND 58270
1/22/13

Reasons for reinstating World History as a mandatory ND class:

1. The world is shrinking, thus students need to understand different cultures and religions.
2. The geography skills of our students need constant review. The last year most students would receive world geography map skills would be the 8th grade level if we don't bring World History back.
3. Current events are dictating the need for students to understand the cause and effect of historical crises in the Mid-East. This is not only important for future education, but also it should be a basis for understanding the contemporary situation with the trend toward democracy in the Arab countries.
 - A. Israel and Palestine border
4. Many students take Introduction to Western Civilization in college. The amount of information a college instructor will go over in a semester will be much more difficult without a previous class in high school.
5. Human nature tends to repeat itself. When students study colonialism, genocide, slavery, and different forms of government, it allows the student to appreciate the type of government we have and why we commit military troops to remote areas.

#3

SB 2155

Chairman Flakoll
Members of the Senate Education Committee

My name is Joyce Kingsbury. I am a former representative from Grafton, which is now Dist. 19.
I am in support of SB 2155. The fact that it is before you again this session tells us that this curriculum change is not desirable in all aspects, and the history instructors have gone over those reasons.

When I was informed of this change, my initial reaction was that it would result in a watering down of World History as a result of being placed in a "basket" of choices. I am not an educator, nor have I worked with curriculums. But I have raised children, and I think students react positively to structure. And this plan weakens the previous structure of study.

Our grandson, Cody, was asked what he was going to be. Being active in sports, he said, I'm going to be a TWIN, or a VIKING, or a History teacher! That tells me History was a "positive" experience.

I urge a Do Pass on SB 2155 to restore World History to its previous placement in all North Dakota schools.

Joyce Kingsbury

#4

TESTIMONY ON SB 2155
Senate Education Committee
1/23/2013

By: Matt Strinden, Director of Teacher & School Effectiveness
701-328-2755
Department of Public Instruction

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Matt Strinden and I am the Director of Teacher & School Effectiveness for the Department of Public Instruction. I am here on behalf of the department to speak in opposition to SB 2155.

While the department has no disagreement with the importance that World History has in the continuum of the history curriculum in the high school, we believe that current data reflects that requiring World History in law is not a necessary step at this time. Currently all but seven of our public and private high schools are teaching World History in the 2012-2013 school year. Additionally, our data also shows that the seven high schools that are not currently teaching it are doing so on a rotational basis in their buildings due to staffing limitations. As a result, we feel that school administrators and school boards in North Dakota continue to believe that World History is an important subject and is being taught to their students without a legislative mandate and the above evidence in school reporting supports this belief.

As a historical note, prior to HB 1400 that added the requirements for high school graduation in 15.1-21-02.02, century code required that schools “shall make available” World History to their students. There previously existed no requirement that students take the course for graduation. This section of code, 15.1-21-02, is still in place today and schools continue to follow that legislative requirement.

So again, due to the provided data in this testimony, the Department of Public Instruction is in opposition to this bill as it is our desire to continue to allow our schools to maintain some local control of their curriculum and have the flexibility to offer a variety of courses to meet the social studies requirement in addition to World History. I would like to thank you for your time and will respond to any questions that you might have at this time.