

# AMERICAN LEGION BOYS NATION

## BILL SUMMARY

Note: This form must be completed and accompany all Bills submitted for consideration by The American Legion Boys Nation Senate.

**DELEGATE NAME:** Michael Seraydarian

**DELEGATE STATE:** California

**NAME OF BILL:** Reinforce the Humanities Act

**BRIEF SUMMARY OF BILL:** Would require general English classes to focus on more evaluative questions and self-chosen work in addition to making a nationwide standard for foreign language requirements as well as freezing state reductions on visual and performign arts budgets.

To Be Completed By  
The Clerk Of The Senate

BILL NO.

**SB-64**

# AMERICAN LEGION BOYS NATION SENATE

## IN THE SENATE OF AMERICAN LEGION BOYS NATION

Senator **Michael Seraydarian** of **California** introduced the following Bill, which was read twice and referred to the following American Legion Boys Nation Senate Committee:

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a Bill

1 TO REINFORCE THE HUMANITIES IN K-12 EDUCATION...

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3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE AMERICAN LEGION BOYS NATION SENATE ASSEMBLED, THAT

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5 Preamble: WHEREAS the abilities taught in the humanities, to empathize, to understand  
6 common culture of humanity, and to express thought, are necessary in any occupation,  
7 whether they are humanities based or otherwise, in order to effectively communicate with peers  
8 and efficiently work in cooperation. WHEREAS a well-taught and interactive English course in  
9 composition, reading, and communication that encourages open interpretation and creative  
10 freedom is essential to give an average student a positive impression of the humanities.  
11 WHEREAS foreign linguistic studies are important to understanding other cultures in a global  
12 sense. WHEREAS the availability of the performing and visual arts is important to a balanced  
13 educational experience as forms of creative expression for students.

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15 Section 1: The humanities are defined as follows: "The study and interpretation of the following:  
16 language, both modern and classical; linguistics; literature; history; jurisprudence; philosophy;  
17 archaeology; comparative religion; ethics; the history, criticism and theory of the arts," (National  
18 Endowment for the Humanities, 1965). A factual question is a question that has only one right  
19 answer. An interpretive question is a question that has more than one right answer but requires  
20 evidence for support. An evaluative question is a question that has more than one right answer  
21 and focuses on opinion, point of view, belief, and analysis.

22 Section 2: If enacted, the following changes will be made to the teaching curriculums of specific  
23 humanities:

24 For English composition and literature classes teachers will be required to use interpretive and  
25 evaluative essays or short answers for grading on topics, passages, or full-length works and  
26 reduce the number of multiple choice or fill in tests that are based on factual information to 3/4  
27 of what a teacher had in their previous year's syllabus.

28 Teachers of English composition and literature classes will be required to have at least two  
29 graded assignments per quarter that allow students to choose their topic of study from a given  
30 list or freely choose their topic of study with teacher approval and with a given relevant  
31 parameter.

32 High schools, nationwide, will require two years of the same foreign language for graduation.  
33 These credits would not be able to be replaced by other courses, such as fine arts or career  
34 and technical education classes like in some states, and would be specifically made for foreign  
35 language.

36 Any further cuts in visual or performing arts spending be frozen so these subjects can still be  
37 made available to students.

38 Section 3: These changes would be made in all public educational institutions in the United  
39 States and its territories.

40 Section 4: The authority and funds necessary to enforce and teach these new methods to  
41 educators around the country would fall on the Department of Education.

42 Section 5: School boards that fail to comply with the new standards would be at risk of not  
43 being chartered as a public institution of education from state or federal authorities.

44 Section 6: If enacted, these changes would take effect on August 1, 2017.

45 Section 7: Schools that already receive federal grants would need to comply with these new  
46 standards in order to continue to receive their grants.