

Lesson Title: When States Become Laboratories of Democracy
Handout #1: Weird State Laws

Review the following laws that have passed state legislatures. After being assigned one of the laws, speculate on what the law was supposed to accomplish. Then do some research on your law as to why the state passed the law. Be prepared to share your findings with the class.

- In Louisiana, you get fined \$500 dollars if you send a pizza to a friend's house, and the friend doesn't know about it.
- In Massachusetts, you're not allowed to own an explosive golf ball.
- In Ohio, it's illegal to get a fish drunk.
- In New Mexico, it's against the law for a woman to appear unshaven in public.
- In Connecticut, it's illegal to sell a term paper, essay or dissertation.
- In Missouri, it's illegal to drive with an un-caged bear.
- In North Carolina, bingo games cannot last more than five hours.
- In Oregon, hunting in cemeteries is illegal.
- In Kansas, if two trains meet on the same track, neither shall proceed until the other passes.
- In Utah, marriage between cousins is permitted only if the subjects are 65 years old or older.

What was the law supposed to accomplish?

Why did the state legislature pass the law?

Do you think this law is fair or justified and why or why not?