

By: Talarico

H.B. No. 4252

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to certain public school instructional requirements and
3 prohibitions.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Section 28.0022(a), Education Code, is amended
6 to read as follows:

7 (a) For any course or subject, including an innovative
8 course, for a grade level from kindergarten through grade 12:

9 (1) a teacher may not be compelled to discuss a widely
10 debated and currently controversial issue of public policy or
11 social affairs;

12 (2) a teacher who chooses to discuss a topic described
13 by Subdivision (1) shall explore that topic objectively and in a
14 manner free from political bias;

15 (3) a school district, open-enrollment charter
16 school, or teacher may not require, make part of a course, or award
17 a grade or course credit, including extra credit, for a student's:

18 (A) work for, affiliation with, or service
19 learning in association with any organization engaged in:

20 (i) lobbying for legislation at the
21 federal, state, or local level, if the student's duties involve
22 directly or indirectly attempting to influence social or public
23 policy or the outcome of legislation; or

24 (ii) social policy advocacy or public

1 policy advocacy;

2 (B) political activism, lobbying, or efforts to
3 persuade members of the legislative or executive branch at the
4 federal, state, or local level to take specific actions by direct
5 communication; or

6 (C) participation in any internship, practicum,
7 or similar activity involving social policy advocacy or public
8 policy advocacy; and

9 (4) a teacher, administrator, or other employee of a
10 state agency, school district, or open-enrollment charter school
11 may not:

12 (A) require or make part of a course inculcation
13 in the concept that:

14 (i) one race or sex is inherently superior
15 to another race or sex;

16 (ii) an individual, by virtue of the
17 individual's race or sex, is inherently racist, sexist, or
18 oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously;

19 (iii) an individual should be discriminated
20 against or receive adverse treatment solely or partly because of
21 the individual's race or sex;

22 (iv) an individual's moral character,
23 standing, or worth is necessarily determined by the individual's
24 race or sex;

25 (v) an individual, by virtue of the
26 individual's race or sex, bears responsibility, blame, or guilt for
27 actions committed by other members of the same race or sex;

1 (vi) meritocracy or traits such as a hard
2 work ethic are racist or sexist or were created by members of a
3 particular race to oppress members of another race;

4 (vii) the advent of slavery in the
5 territory that is now the United States constituted the true
6 founding of the United States; or

7 (viii) with respect to their relationship
8 to American values, slavery and racism are anything other than
9 deviations from, betrayals of, or failures to live up to the
10 authentic founding principles of the United States, which include
11 liberty and equality;

12 (B) teach, instruct, or train any administrator,
13 teacher, or staff member of a state agency, school district, or
14 open-enrollment charter school to adopt a concept listed under
15 Paragraph (A); ~~or~~

16 (C) require an understanding of the 1619 Project;
17 or

18 (D) require or make part of a course teaching
19 regarding white supremacist ideologies, including the great
20 replacement theory, unless those ideologies are discussed in the
21 appropriate historical and sociological context.

22 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
23 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
24 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
25 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
26 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.