

By: Creighton

S.B. No. 2136

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to measures to support public secondary and postsecondary
3 American history and civics education, including the satisfaction
4 of curriculum requirements in American History at institutions of
5 higher education and the establishment of the American History and
6 Civics Project.

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

8 SECTION 1. Section 51.302(b), Education Code, is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 (b) Except as provided by Subsection (c), a college or
11 university receiving state support or state aid from public funds
12 may not grant a baccalaureate degree or a lesser degree or academic
13 certificate to any person unless the person has credit for six
14 semester hours or its equivalent in American History. A student is
15 entitled to submit as much as three semester hours of credit or its
16 equivalent in Texas History in partial satisfaction of this
17 requirement. The college or university shall ensure that a student
18 may satisfy this requirement by successfully completing survey
19 courses that address the major themes of American history from the
20 nation's founding onward. The college or university may determine
21 that a student has satisfied this requirement in whole or part on
22 the basis of credit granted to the student by the college or
23 university for a substantially equivalent course completed at
24 another accredited college or university, or on the basis of the

1 student's successful completion of an advanced standing
2 examination administered on the conditions and under the
3 circumstances common for the college or university's advanced
4 standing examinations. The college or university may grant as much
5 as three semester hours of credit or its equivalent toward
6 satisfaction of this requirement for substantially equivalent work
7 completed by a student in the program of an approved senior R.O.T.C.
8 unit.

9 SECTION 2. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is
10 amended by adding Section 61.0518 to read as follows:

11 Sec. 61.0518. AMERICAN HISTORY AND CIVICS PROJECT. (a) In
12 this section, "project" means the American History and Civics
13 Project.

14 (b) The board, in consultation with institutions of higher
15 education, shall establish the American History and Civics Project
16 to:

17 (1) strengthen American history and civics education
18 at public high schools and institutions of higher education; and

19 (2) encourage the development and effective use of
20 high-quality digital content and professional development
21 materials for use in American history and civics education at
22 public high schools and institutions of higher education.

23 (c) The board shall convene an expert commission of scholars
24 and educators to assist in the creation of the project.

25 (d) Using funds appropriated or otherwise available for
26 purposes of the project, the board shall award grants to
27 individuals with relevant subject matter expertise, school

1 districts, or institutions of higher education to recommend and
2 develop digital content and professional development materials for
3 use in American history and civics education at public high schools
4 and institutions of higher education.

5 (e) Digital content recommended or developed using a grant
6 awarded under Subsection (d) may include interactive and
7 audiovisual resources, assignments, and model syllabuses that:

8 (1) address the major themes of American history from
9 the nation's founding onward; and

10 (2) may be used in the delivery of:

11 (A) survey courses offered by institutions of
12 higher education;

13 (B) dual credit or dual enrollment courses
14 offered by public high schools or institutions of higher education;
15 or

16 (C) public high school courses for which students
17 may receive credit that satisfies all or part of the requirements
18 under Section 51.302(b).

19 (f) To encourage the effective use of digital content
20 recommended or developed using a grant awarded under Subsection
21 (d), the board shall, using funds appropriated or otherwise
22 available for purposes of the project, support the establishment of
23 a professional development program for individuals who teach one or
24 more American history and civics courses, including a dual credit
25 or dual enrollment course, at a public high school or institution of
26 higher education. The professional development program may include
27 an annual statewide conference.

1 (g) The board shall include in the state repository of open
2 educational resources developed under Section 61.0670 any digital
3 content or professional development materials developed using a
4 grant awarded under Subsection (d).

5 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.