

1-1 By: Creighton S.B. No. 2136  
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 9, 2023; March 21, 2023, read  
 1-3 first time and referred to Subcommittee on Higher Education;  
 1-4 April 24, 2023, reported adversely, with favorable Committee  
 1-5 Substitute from Committee on Education by the following vote:  
 1-6 Yeas 12, Nays 0; April 24, 2023, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8 Creighton	X			
1-9 Campbell	X			
1-10 Bettencourt	X			
1-11 Birdwell			x	
1-12 Flores	X			
1-13 King	X			
1-14 LaMantia	X			
1-15 Menéndez	X			
1-16 Middleton	X			
1-17 Parker	X			
1-18 Paxton	X			
1-19 Springer	X			
1-20 West	X			

1-22 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 2136 By: Springer

1-23 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
 1-24 AN ACT

1-25 relating to measures to support public secondary and postsecondary  
 1-26 American history and civics education, including the satisfaction  
 1-27 of curriculum requirements in American History at institutions of  
 1-28 higher education and the establishment of the American History and  
 1-29 Civics Project.

1-30 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-31 SECTION 1. Section 51.302(b), Education Code, is amended to  
 1-32 read as follows:

1-33 (b) Except as provided by Subsection (c), a college or  
 1-34 university receiving state support or state aid from public funds  
 1-35 may not grant a baccalaureate degree or a lesser degree or academic  
 1-36 certificate to any person unless the person has credit for six  
 1-37 semester hours or its equivalent in American History. A student is  
 1-38 entitled to submit as much as three semester hours of credit or its  
 1-39 equivalent in Texas History in partial satisfaction of this  
 1-40 requirement. The college or university shall ensure that a student  
 1-41 may satisfy this requirement by successfully completing survey  
 1-42 courses that address the major themes of American history from the  
 1-43 nation's founding onward. The college or university may determine  
 1-44 that a student has satisfied this requirement in whole or part on  
 1-45 the basis of credit granted to the student by the college or  
 1-46 university for a substantially equivalent course completed at  
 1-47 another accredited college or university, or on the basis of the  
 1-48 student's successful completion of an advanced standing  
 1-49 examination administered on the conditions and under the  
 1-50 circumstances common for the college or university's advanced  
 1-51 standing examinations. The college or university may grant as much  
 1-52 as three semester hours of credit or its equivalent toward  
 1-53 satisfaction of this requirement for substantially equivalent work  
 1-54 completed by a student in the program of an approved senior R.O.T.C.  
 1-55 unit.

1-56 SECTION 2. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is  
 1-57 amended by adding Section 61.0518 to read as follows:

1-58 Sec. 61.0518. AMERICAN HISTORY AND CIVICS PROJECT. (a) In  
 1-59 this section, "project" means the American History and Civics  
 1-60 Project.

2-1 (b) The board, in consultation with institutions of higher  
2-2 education, shall establish the American History and Civics Project  
2-3 to:

2-4 (1) strengthen American history and civics education  
2-5 at public high schools and institutions of higher education; and

2-6 (2) encourage the development and effective use of  
2-7 high-quality digital content and professional development  
2-8 materials for use in American history and civics education at  
2-9 public high schools and institutions of higher education.

2-10 (c) The board shall convene an expert commission of scholars  
2-11 and educators to assist in the creation of the project.

2-12 (d) Using funds appropriated or otherwise available for  
2-13 purposes of the project, the board shall award grants to  
2-14 individuals with relevant subject matter expertise, school  
2-15 districts, or institutions of higher education to recommend and  
2-16 develop digital content and professional development materials for  
2-17 use in American history and civics education at public high schools  
2-18 and institutions of higher education.

2-19 (e) Digital content recommended or developed using a grant  
2-20 awarded under Subsection (d) may include interactive and  
2-21 audiovisual resources, assignments, and model syllabuses that:

2-22 (1) address the major themes of American history from  
2-23 the nation's founding onward; and

2-24 (2) may be used in the delivery of:

2-25 (A) survey courses offered by institutions of  
2-26 higher education;

2-27 (B) dual credit or dual enrollment courses  
2-28 offered by public high schools or institutions of higher education;  
2-29 or

2-30 (C) public high school courses for which students  
2-31 may receive credit that satisfies all or part of the requirements  
2-32 under Section 51.302(b).

2-33 (f) To encourage the effective use of digital content  
2-34 recommended or developed using a grant awarded under Subsection  
2-35 (d), the board shall, using funds appropriated or otherwise  
2-36 available for purposes of the project, support the establishment of  
2-37 a professional development program for individuals who teach one or  
2-38 more American history and civics courses, including a dual credit  
2-39 or dual enrollment course, at a public high school or institution of  
2-40 higher education. The professional development program may include  
2-41 an annual statewide conference.

2-42 (g) The board shall include in the state repository of open  
2-43 educational resources developed under Section 61.0670 any digital  
2-44 content or professional development materials developed using a  
2-45 grant awarded under Subsection (d).

2-46 (h) The board may adopt rules necessary to implement this  
2-47 section.

2-48 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

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