

By: Bernal

H.B. No. 366

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to an elective course in ethnic studies for middle school,
junior high school, and high school students.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 28.0111 to read as follows:

Sec. 28.0111. ELECTIVE COURSE IN ETHNIC STUDIES. (a) In this section, "advisory committee" means the ethnic studies advisory committee.

(b) A school district shall offer an elective course in ethnic studies to students in middle school, junior high school, and high school. The course provided to high school students must meet the requirements for a one-half elective credit under Section 28.025.

(c) The commissioner shall create an ethnic studies advisory committee that consists of ten to fifteen members serving a term of two years, including at least one representative from the following:

(1) a middle school teacher with experience in ethnic studies;

(2) a high school teacher with experience in ethnic studies;

(3) a professor from a Texas public institution of higher education who specializes in ethnic studies;

1 (4) a professor from a Texas private institution of
2 higher education who specializes in ethnic studies;

3 (5) a professor from a Texas Community College who
4 specializes in ethnic studies;

5 (6) a member of a community based organization who is
6 an expert in the field of ethnic studies;

7 (7) a member of a professional association relating to
8 ethnic studies; and

9 (8) a parent of a middle or high school student with
10 demonstrated interest in ethnic studies.

11 (d) A member of the advisory committee serves at the will of
12 the commissioner.

13 (e) The advisory committee shall prepare and periodically
14 update model curricula for ethnic studies courses for review and
15 consideration by the State Board of Education. The model curricula
16 for ethnic studies courses must provide:

17 (1) proposed grade-level appropriate instruction for
18 students in middle school, junior high school, or high school;

19 (2) recommended resources and educational materials
20 for ethnic studies courses; and

21 (3) proposed training for teachers of ethnic studies.

22 (f) Not later than September 1 of each even-numbered year,
23 the advisory committee shall prepare a report addressing ethnic
24 studies courses taught in this state for middle school, junior high
25 school, and high school students. The report must:

26 (1) review and evaluate ethnic studies courses offered
27 in the state;

1 (2) address the use of ethnic studies model curricula
2 developed by the advisory committee;

3 (3) provide best practices for ethnic studies courses;

4 (4) provide areas of improvement for ethnic studies
5 courses; and

6 (5) evaluate current educational research on ethnic
7 studies courses.

8 (g) The advisory committee shall provide the proposed model
9 curricula and report to the:

10 (1) governor;

11 (2) lieutenant governor;

12 (3) speaker of the house of representatives;

13 (4) appropriate committees of the senate and house of
14 representatives; and

15 (5) State Board of Education.

16 SECTION 2. A school district shall provide the elective
17 course required by Section 28.0111, Education Code, as added by
18 this Act, beginning with the 2018-2019 school year.

19 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
20 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
21 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
22 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
23 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.