

By: Leach

H.B. No. 617

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the inclusion of American principles in the public school curriculum and instructional materials.

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

SECTION 1. Section 28.002, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (h-1) to read as follows:

(h-1) To accomplish the primary purpose stated in Subsection (h), the State Board of Education and each school district shall ensure that:

(1) the public school curriculum emphasizes:

(A) the importance of patriotism, American exceptionalism, United States citizenship, basic democratic values, character development, the moral fabric of American civil society, and an appreciation for the free enterprise system; and

(B) an understanding of the principles underlying the United States form of government, including the study of the Founding Fathers of the United States, the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the Federalist Papers;

(2) each historical event addressed in the public school curriculum meets a reasonable standard of historical significance, in relation to the limited amount of available instructional time;

(3) any issue included in the public school curriculum

1 that is considered controversial is presented in a balanced manner
2 that includes multiple viewpoints regarding the issue;

3 (4) the public school curriculum includes the
4 Celebrate Freedom Week program developed under Section 29.907; and

5 (5) any curriculum generated, purchased, or otherwise
6 obtained by a district, including dual credit, advanced placement,
7 and international baccalaureate social studies courses, is in
8 compliance with the appropriate essential knowledge and skills
9 requirements adopted under this section.

10 SECTION 2. Section 31.023(a), Education Code, is amended to
11 read as follows:

12 (a) For each subject and grade level, the State Board of
13 Education shall adopt a list of instructional materials. The list
14 includes each instructional material submitted for the subject and
15 grade level that meets applicable physical specifications adopted
16 by the State Board of Education, that ~~and~~ contains material that
17 is consistent with the purpose and guidelines of Sections 28.002(h)
18 and (h-1), and that covers ~~covering~~ at least half of the elements
19 of the essential knowledge and skills of the subject and grade level
20 in the student version of the instructional material, as well as in
21 the teacher version of the instructional material, as determined by
22 the State Board of Education under Section 28.002 and adopted under
23 Section 31.024.

24 SECTION 3. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), this
25 Act applies beginning with the 2017-2018 school year.

26 (b) The changes in law made by this Act to Section
27 31.023(a), Education Code, apply to instructional materials

1 adopted by the State Board of Education on or after September 1,
2 2018.

3 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
4 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
5 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
6 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
7 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.