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H.B. No. 1291

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the inclusion of American principles in the public
3 school curriculum and instructional materials.

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

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

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

10 (1) the public school curriculum emphasizes an
11 understanding of the principles underlying the United States form
12 of government, including the study of the Founding Fathers of the
13 United States, the Declaration of Independence, the United States
14 Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the Federalist Papers; and

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

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

21 (a) For each subject and grade level, the State Board of
22 Education shall adopt a list of instructional materials. The list
23 includes each instructional material submitted for the subject and
24 grade level that meets applicable physical specifications adopted

1 by the State Board of Education, that [~~and~~] contains material that
2 is consistent with the purpose and guidelines of Sections 28.002(h)
3 and (h-1), and that covers [~~covering~~] at least half of the elements
4 of the essential knowledge and skills of the subject and grade level
5 in the student version of the instructional material, as well as in
6 the teacher version of the instructional material, as determined by
7 the State Board of Education under Section 28.002 and adopted under
8 Section 31.024.

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

11 (b) The changes in law made by this Act to Section
12 31.023(a), Education Code, apply to instructional materials
13 adopted by the State Board of Education on or after September 1,
14 2018.

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