

By: Anchia

H.B. No. 1817

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to elective courses in ethnic studies for middle 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 COURSES IN ETHNIC STUDIES. (a) A school district may offer to middle and high school students one or more English language arts or social studies elective courses in ethnic studies that comply with curriculum standards adopted under Subsection (b) or (c).

(b) The State Board of Education shall adopt separate content-based curriculum standards for each of the following ethnic studies courses:

- (1) Mexican American studies;
- (2) African American studies;
- (3) Native American studies; and
- (4) Asian American studies.

(c) The State Board of Education may adopt separate content-based curriculum standards for additional ethnic studies courses not specified in Subsection (b).

(d) The curriculum standards must:

(1) include:

- (A) key historical figures, events, and dates;

1 and

2 (B) information regarding the ethnic group's  
3 contributions to society; and

4 (2) be reviewed by academic experts with knowledge in  
5 the relevant ethnic studies field before final adoption by the  
6 State Board of Education.

7 SECTION 2. The State Board of Education shall adopt  
8 curriculum standards for ethnic studies courses as required by  
9 Section 28.0111, Education Code, as added by this Act, not later  
10 than the date that permits school districts to offer ethnic studies  
11 courses that comply with the curriculum standards beginning with  
12 the 2018-2019 school year.

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