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H.B. No. 3009

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to civics instruction in public schools.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter J, Chapter 21, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 21.467 to read as follows:

Sec. 21.467. CIVICS COURSE TRAINING. The agency shall advise school districts regarding training materials and resources for a school district to use in assisting educators to:

(1) develop civics projects and methods of teaching as described in Section 28.0028;

(2) understand and teach the relevance of:

(A) public policy; and

(B) the structure of federal, state, and local governments; and

(3) engage students in:

(A) thinking critically;

(B) working cooperatively;

(C) identifying issues in the community;

(D) researching a problem, evaluating alternative outcomes, and developing a solution; and

(E) creating public policy or action plans.

SECTION 2. Section 28.002(a), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Each school district that offers kindergarten through

grade 12 shall offer, as a required curriculum:

(1) a foundation curriculum that includes:

(A) English language arts;

(B) mathematics;

(C) science; and

(D) social studies, consisting of Texas, United States, and world history, government, economics, with emphasis on the free enterprise system and its benefits, civics, and geography; and

(2) an enrichment curriculum that includes:

(A) to the extent possible, languages other than English;

(B) health, with emphasis on the importance of proper nutrition and exercise;

(C) physical education;

(D) fine arts;

(E) career and technology education;

(F) technology applications;

(G) religious literature, including the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) and New Testament, and its impact on history and literature; and

(H) personal financial literacy.

SECTION 3. Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 28.0028 to read as follows:

Sec. 28.0028. CIVICS INSTRUCTION. (a) The essential knowledge and skills for the social studies curriculum under Section 28.002 must include instruction in civics:

1           (1) at least once in grade four, five, six, seven, or  
2 eight; and

3           (2) as part of one or more courses offered at the high  
4 school level that satisfy graduation requirements under Section  
5 28.025.

6           (b) Each school district and open-enrollment charter school  
7 that offers a high school program shall provide an elective course  
8 in civics that meets the requirements for one credit in civics under  
9 Section 28.025(b-1)(4).

10          (c) The State Board of Education shall develop a civics  
11 curriculum as described by this section. The curriculum must be  
12 developed to:

13           (1) measure the civics learning objectives contained  
14 in the essential knowledge and skills for social studies;

15           (2) demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of  
16 the relevance of:

17                   (A) public policy;

18                   (B) the structure of federal, state, and local  
19 governments; and

20                   (C) the foundational texts of American history,  
21 including:

22                           (i) the Declaration of Independence;

23                           (ii) the United States Constitution;

24                           (iii) the Federalist Papers;

25                           (iv) the Lincoln-Douglas debates; and

26                           (v) On Democracy in America by Alexis de  
27 Tocqueville; and

1           (3) include opportunities for students to engage in:

2                   (A) thinking critically;

3                   (B) working cooperatively;

4                   (C) identifying issues in the community;

5                   (D) researching a problem, evaluating  
6 alternative outcomes, and developing a solution; and

7                   (E) creating public policy or action plans.

8           (d) In implementing the curriculum described under this  
9 section, each school district or open-enrollment charter school  
10 shall develop a course of study that is project based. The course  
11 of study may take the form of a capstone project, portfolio, or  
12 presentation. The course of study must:

13                   (1) use inquiry-based learning;

14                   (2) focus on problem solving; and

15                   (3) address an issue that is relevant to the students.

16           (e) Not later than September 1 of every even-numbered year,  
17 each school district and open-enrollment charter school shall  
18 submit to the agency a report that describes the projects developed  
19 through civics courses offered by the district or school.

20           (f) The agency shall adopt rules necessary to gather data  
21 and conduct research to substantiate any correlation between taking  
22 a civics course offered under this section and student achievement  
23 under Section [39.053](#).

24           SECTION 4. Section [28.025](#)(b-1), Education Code, is amended  
25 to read as follows:

26           (b-1) The State Board of Education by rule shall require  
27 that the curriculum requirements for the foundation high school

1 program under Subsection (a) include a requirement that students  
2 successfully complete:

3 (1) four credits in English language arts under  
4 Section 28.002(a)(1)(A), including one credit in English I, one  
5 credit in English II, one credit in English III, and one credit in  
6 an advanced English course authorized under Subsection (b-2);

7 (2) three credits in mathematics under Section  
8 28.002(a)(1)(B), including one credit in Algebra I, one credit in  
9 geometry, and one credit in any advanced mathematics course  
10 authorized under Subsection (b-2);

11 (3) three credits in science under Section  
12 28.002(a)(1)(C), including one credit in biology, one credit in any  
13 advanced science course authorized under Subsection (b-2), and one  
14 credit in integrated physics and chemistry or in an additional  
15 advanced science course authorized under Subsection (b-2);

16 (4) three credits in social studies under Section  
17 28.002(a)(1)(D), including one credit in United States history, at  
18 least one-half credit in government and at least one-half credit in  
19 economics, and one credit in world geography, ~~or~~ world history,  
20 or civics;

21 (5) except as provided under Subsections (b-12),  
22 (b-13), and (b-14), two credits in the same language in a language  
23 other than English under Section 28.002(a)(2)(A);

24 (6) five elective credits;

25 (7) one credit in fine arts under Section  
26 28.002(a)(2)(D); and

27 (8) except as provided by Subsection (b-11), one

1 credit in physical education under Section 28.002(a)(2)(C).

2       SECTION 5. Not later than September 1, 2020, each school  
3 district and open-enrollment charter school shall submit the  
4 initial report required under Section 28.0028, Education Code, as  
5 added by this Act.

6       SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
7 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
8 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
9 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
10 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.