

By: Talarico, Ashby

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

1 grade 12 shall offer, as a required curriculum:

2 (1) a foundation curriculum that includes:

3 (A) English language arts;

4 (B) mathematics;

5 (C) science; and

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

10 (2) an enrichment curriculum that includes:

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

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

15 (C) physical education;

16 (D) fine arts;

17 (E) career and technology education;

18 (F) technology applications;

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

22 (H) personal financial literacy.

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

25 Sec. 28.0028. CIVICS INSTRUCTION. (a) The essential
26 knowledge and skills for the social studies curriculum under
27 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; and

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

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

21 (A) thinking critically;

22 (B) working cooperatively;

23 (C) identifying issues in the community;

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

26 (E) creating public policy or action plans.

27 (d) In implementing the curriculum described under this

1 section, each school district or open-enrollment charter school
2 shall develop a course of study that is project based. The course
3 of study may take the form of a capstone project, portfolio, or
4 presentation. The course of study must:

- 5 (1) use inquiry-based learning;
- 6 (2) focus on problem solving; and
- 7 (3) address an issue that is relevant to the students.

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

12 (f) The agency shall adopt rules necessary to gather data
13 and conduct research to substantiate any correlation between taking
14 a civics course offered under this section and student achievement
15 under Section 39.053.

16 SECTION 4. Section 28.025(b-1), Education Code, is amended
17 to read as follows:

18 (b-1) The State Board of Education by rule shall require
19 that the curriculum requirements for the foundation high school
20 program under Subsection (a) include a requirement that students
21 successfully complete:

22 (1) four credits in English language arts under
23 Section 28.002(a)(1)(A), including one credit in English I, one
24 credit in English II, one credit in English III, and one credit in
25 an advanced English course authorized under Subsection (b-2);

26 (2) three credits in mathematics under Section
27 28.002(a)(1)(B), including one credit in Algebra I, one credit in

1 geometry, and one credit in any advanced mathematics course
2 authorized under Subsection (b-2);

3 (3) three credits in science under Section
4 28.002(a)(1)(C), including one credit in biology, one credit in any
5 advanced science course authorized under Subsection (b-2), and one
6 credit in integrated physics and chemistry or in an additional
7 advanced science course authorized under Subsection (b-2);

8 (4) three credits in social studies under Section
9 28.002(a)(1)(D), including one credit in United States history, at
10 least one-half credit in government and at least one-half credit in
11 economics, and one credit in world geography, ~~or~~ world history,
12 or civics;

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

16 (6) five elective credits;

17 (7) one credit in fine arts under Section
18 28.002(a)(2)(D); and

19 (8) except as provided by Subsection (b-11), one
20 credit in physical education under Section 28.002(a)(2)(C).

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

25 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
26 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
27 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this

H.B. No. 3009

1 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

2 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.