

By: Gervin-Hawkins

H.B. No. 153

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the inclusion of instruction regarding culturally inclusive curriculum reflecting the cultural, linguistic and religious diversity of society.

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

SECTION 1. This Act may be cited as the Cultural Inclusion Act.

SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code, is amended by adding Sec. 28.021 to read as follows:

Sec. 28.021. INSTRUCTION REGARDING CULTURALLY INCLUSIVE CURRICULUM.

(a) In this section:

(1) "Board" means the State Board of Education

(2) "Agency" means the Texas Education Agency.

(b) The board, agency, and stakeholders shall enter into a memorandum of understanding that establishes the respective responsibilities in developing instruction, including curriculum and instructional modules, on culturally inclusive curriculum reflecting the cultural, linguistic and religious diversity of society. The instruction must include information regarding:

(1) Fostering each child's sense of self-identity;

(2) Fostering acceptance of diversity among people by allowing children to ask about and explore the differences;

(3) Encouraging critical thinking about bias by

1 helping children to identify acts of discrimination and stereotypic
2 images in their world;

3 (4) Encouraging empathy towards others; and

4 (5) Fostering each child's ability to stand up for
5 themselves and others in the face of bias.

6 (c) In developing the instruction under this section, the
7 board and the agency may consult with any interested party,
8 including a volunteer work group convened for the purpose of making
9 recommendations regarding the instruction.

10 (d) Before finalizing any instruction under this section,
11 the board and the agency shall provide a reasonable period for
12 public comment.

13 (e) Subject to rules adopted by the board, a school district
14 or open-enrollment charter school may tailor the instruction
15 developed under this section as appropriate for the district's or
16 school 's community. In tailoring the instruction, the district or
17 school shall solicit input from local law enforcement agencies,
18 interested stakeholders, and the community.

19 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.