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H.B. No. 1504

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to ethnic studies instruction in public schools.

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

4 SECTION 1. Section 28.002(a), Education Code, is amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 (a) Each school district that offers kindergarten through  
7 grade 12 shall offer, as a required curriculum:

8 (1) a foundation curriculum that includes:

9 (A) English language arts;

10 (B) mathematics;

11 (C) science; and

12 (D) social studies, consisting of Texas, United  
13 States, and world history, government, economics, with emphasis on  
14 the free enterprise system and its benefits, ~~and~~ geography, and  
15 ethnic studies, including Mexican American and African American  
16 studies; and

17 (2) an enrichment curriculum that includes:

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

20 (B) health, with emphasis on:

21 (i) physical health, including the  
22 importance of proper nutrition and exercise;

23 (ii) mental health, including instruction  
24 about mental health conditions, substance abuse, skills to manage

1 emotions, establishing and maintaining positive relationships, and  
2 responsible decision-making; and

3 (iii) suicide prevention, including  
4 recognizing suicide-related risk factors and warning signs;

5 (C) physical education;

6 (D) fine arts;

7 (E) career and technology education;

8 (F) technology applications;

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

12 (H) personal financial literacy.

13 SECTION 2. Section 28.025(b-1), Education Code, is amended  
14 to read as follows:

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

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

23 (2) three credits in mathematics under Section  
24 28.002(a)(1)(B), including one credit in Algebra I, one credit in  
25 geometry, and one credit in any advanced mathematics course  
26 authorized under Subsection (b-2);

27 (3) three credits in science under Section

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

5 (4) three credits in social studies under Section  
6 28.002(a)(1)(D), including one credit in United States history, at  
7 least one-half credit in government and at least one-half credit in  
8 economics, and one credit in ethnic studies, including Mexican  
9 American studies or African American studies, world geography, or  
10 world history;

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

14 (6) five elective credits;

15 (7) one credit in fine arts under Section  
16 28.002(a)(2)(D); and

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

19 SECTION 3. Section 28.025(b-1), Education Code, as amended  
20 by this Act, applies only to students entering the ninth grade  
21 during the 2022-2023 school year or a later school year. For  
22 students entering a grade above ninth grade during the 2022-2023  
23 school year, Section 28.025(b-1), Education Code, as that section  
24 existed before amendment by this Act, applies, and that section is  
25 continued in effect for that purpose.

26 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
27 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as

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1 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
2 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
3 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.