

By: Bell of Kaufman

H.B. No. 1776

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the inclusion of an elective course on the founding
3 principles of the United States in the curriculum for public high
4 school students and the posting of the founding documents of the
5 United States in public school buildings.

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

7 SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 11, Education Code, is
8 amended by adding Section 11.172 to read as follows:

9 Sec. 11.172. POSTING OF FOUNDING DOCUMENTS. The board of
10 trustees of an independent school district shall permit and
11 encourage the posting in a district classroom or school building of
12 a copy of the founding documents of the United States, including the
13 Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, the
14 Federalist Papers, and the writings of the Founding Fathers of the
15 United States.

16 SECTION 2. Section 12.104(b), Education Code, as amended by
17 Chapters 262 (H.B. 1597), 464 (S.B. 11), 467 (H.B. 4170), and 943
18 (H.B. 3), Acts of the 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, is
19 reenacted and amended to read as follows:

20 (b) An open-enrollment charter school is subject to:

21 (1) a provision of this title establishing a criminal
22 offense;

23 (2) the provisions in Chapter 554, Government Code;

24 and

1 (3) a prohibition, restriction, or requirement, as
2 applicable, imposed by this title or a rule adopted under this
3 title, relating to:

4 (A) the Public Education Information Management
5 System (PEIMS) to the extent necessary to monitor compliance with
6 this subchapter as determined by the commissioner;

7 (B) criminal history records under Subchapter C,
8 Chapter 22;

9 (C) reading instruments and accelerated reading
10 instruction programs under Section 28.006;

11 (D) accelerated instruction under Section
12 28.0211;

13 (E) high school graduation requirements under
14 Section 28.025;

15 (F) special education programs under Subchapter
16 A, Chapter 29;

17 (G) bilingual education under Subchapter B,
18 Chapter 29;

19 (H) prekindergarten programs under Subchapter E
20 or E-1, Chapter 29;

21 (I) extracurricular activities under Section
22 33.081;

23 (J) discipline management practices or behavior
24 management techniques under Section 37.0021;

25 (K) health and safety under Chapter 38;

26 (L) public school accountability under
27 Subchapters B, C, D, F, G, and J, Chapter 39, and Chapter 39A;

1 (M) the requirement under Section 21.006 to
2 report an educator's misconduct;

3 (N) intensive programs of instruction under
4 Section 28.0213;

5 (O) the right of a school employee to report a
6 crime, as provided by Section 37.148;

7 (P) bullying prevention policies and procedures
8 under Section 37.0832;

9 (Q) the right of a school under Section 37.0052
10 to place a student who has engaged in certain bullying behavior in a
11 disciplinary alternative education program or to expel the student;

12 (R) the right under Section 37.0151 to report to
13 local law enforcement certain conduct constituting assault or
14 harassment;

15 (S) a parent's right to information regarding the
16 provision of assistance for learning difficulties to the parent's
17 child as provided by Sections 26.004(b)(11) and 26.0081(c) and (d);

18 (T) establishment of residency under Section
19 25.001;

20 (U) [~~(T)~~] school safety requirements under
21 Sections 37.108, 37.1081, 37.1082, 37.109, 37.113, 37.114, 37.115,
22 37.207, and 37.2071;

23 (V) [~~(T)~~] the early childhood literacy and
24 mathematics proficiency plans under Section 11.185; ~~and~~

25 (W) [~~(U)~~] the college, career, and military
26 readiness plans under Section 11.186; and

27 (X) the posting of founding documents under

1 Section 11.172.

2 SECTION 3. Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code, is
3 amended by adding Section 28.0111 to read as follows:

4 Sec. 28.0111. FOUNDING PRINCIPLES ELECTIVE. (a) Each
5 school district and open-enrollment charter school that offers a
6 high school program shall provide an elective course on the
7 founding principles of the United States that meets the
8 requirements for a one-half elective credit under Section 28.025.

9 (b) The course must focus on the principles underlying the
10 United States form of government, the Declaration of Independence,
11 the United States Constitution, the Federalist Papers, and the
12 writings of the Founding Fathers of the United States.

13 SECTION 4. Section 28.0111, Education Code, as added by
14 this Act, applies beginning with the 2022-2023 school year.

15 SECTION 5. To the extent of any conflict, this Act prevails
16 over another Act of the 87th Legislature, Regular Session, 2021,
17 relating to nonsubstantive additions to and corrections in enacted
18 codes.

19 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
20 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
21 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
22 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
23 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.