

By: Toth, Leach, Metcalf, Bonnen, Parker,
et al.

H.B. No. 3979

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 3979:

By: Dutton

C.S.H.B. No. 3979

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the social studies curriculum in public schools.

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

SECTION 1. Section 28.002, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsections (h-2), (h-3), and (h-4) to read as follows:

(h-2) In adopting the essential knowledge and skills for the social studies curriculum, the State Board of Education shall adopt essential knowledge and skills that develop each student's civic knowledge, including an understanding of:

(1) the fundamental moral, political, and intellectual foundations of the American experiment in self-government;

(2) the history, qualities, traditions, and features of civic engagement in the United States;

(3) the structure, function, and processes of government institutions at the federal, state, and local levels;
and

(4) the founding documents of the United States, including:

(A) the Declaration of Independence;

(B) the United States Constitution;

(C) the Federalist Papers, including Essays 10 and 51;

(D) excerpts from Alexis de Tocqueville's

1 Democracy in America;

2 (E) the transcript of the first Lincoln-Douglas
3 debate; and

4 (F) the writings of the founding fathers of the
5 United States.

6 (h-3) For courses in the social studies curriculum in Texas
7 history, United States history, world history, government, civics,
8 social studies, or other similar subjects:

9 (1) a teacher may not be compelled to discuss current
10 events or widely debated and currently controversial issues of
11 public policy or social affairs;

12 (2) a teacher who chooses to discuss topics described
13 by Subdivision (1) shall, to the best of the teacher's ability,
14 strive to explore those topics from diverse and contending
15 perspectives without giving deference to any one perspective;

16 (3) a school district, open-enrollment charter
17 school, or teacher may not require, make part of a course, or award
18 a grade or course credit, including extra credit, for a student's:

19 (A) work for, affiliation with, or service
20 learning in association with any organization engaged in:

21 (i) lobbying for legislation at the
22 federal, state, or local level; or

23 (ii) social or public policy advocacy;

24 (B) political activism, lobbying, or efforts to
25 persuade members of the legislative or executive branch at the
26 federal, state, or local level to take specific actions by direct
27 communication; or

1 (C) participation in any practicum or similar
2 activity involving social or public policy advocacy; and

3 (4) a teacher, administrator, or other employee of a
4 state agency, school district, or open-enrollment charter school
5 may not:

6 (A) be required to engage in training,
7 orientation, or therapy that presents any form of race or sex
8 stereotyping or blame on the basis of race or sex; and

9 (B) require or make part of a course the concept
10 that:

11 (i) one race or sex is inherently superior
12 to another race or sex;

13 (ii) an individual, by virtue of the
14 individual's race or sex, is inherently racist, sexist, or
15 oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously;

16 (iii) an individual should be discriminated
17 against or receive adverse treatment solely or partly because of
18 the individual's race or sex;

19 (iv) members of one race or sex cannot and
20 should not attempt to treat others without respect to race or sex;

21 (v) an individual's moral character is
22 necessarily determined by the individual's race or sex;

23 (vi) an individual, by virtue of the
24 individual's race or sex, bears responsibility for actions
25 committed in the past by other members of the same race or sex;

26 (vii) an individual should feel discomfort,
27 guilt, anguish, or any other form of psychological distress on

1 account of the individual's race or sex; or
2 (viii) meritocracy or traits such as a hard
3 work ethic are racist or sexist or were created by members of a
4 particular race to oppress members of another race.

5 (h-4) A state agency, school district, or open-enrollment
6 charter school may not accept private funding for the purpose of
7 developing a curriculum, purchasing or selecting curriculum
8 materials, or providing teacher training or professional
9 development for a course described by Subsection (h-3).

10 SECTION 2. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) of
11 this section, this Act applies beginning with the 2021-2022 school
12 year.

13 (b) Section 28.002(h-2), Education Code, as added by this
14 Act, applies beginning with the 2022-2023 school year.

15 SECTION 3. Not later than December 31, 2022, the State Board
16 of Education shall review and revise, as needed, the essential
17 knowledge and skills of the social studies curriculum as required
18 by Section 28.002(h-2), Education Code, as added by this Act.

19 SECTION 4. 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.