

By: Toth

H.B. No. 3979

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to civics instruction public school students and  
3 instruction policies in public schools.

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

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

7 (h-1) In adopting the essential knowledge and skills for the  
8 social studies curriculum, the State Board of Education shall adopt  
9 essential knowledge and skills that develop each student's civic  
10 knowledge, including an understanding of:

11 (1) the fundamental moral, political, and  
12 intellectual foundations of the American experiment in  
13 self-government, as well as the history, qualities, traditions, and  
14 features of civic engagement in the United States;

15 (2) the structure, function, and processes of  
16 government institutions at the federal, state, and local levels;  
17 and

18 (3) the founding documents of the United States,  
19 including the Declaration of Independence, the United States  
20 Constitution, the Federalist Papers (including but not limited to  
21 Essays 10 and 51), excerpts from Alexis de Tocqueville's Democracy  
22 in America, the first Lincoln-Douglas debate, and the writings of  
23 the Founding Fathers of the United States.

24 (h-2) In the instruction of the essential knowledge and

1 skills for the social studies curriculum, in applicable courses of  
2 Texas, United States, and world history, government, civics, social  
3 studies, or similar subject areas:

4 (1) no teacher shall be compelled by a policy of any  
5 state agency, school district, campus, open-enrollment charter  
6 school, or school administration to discuss current events or  
7 widely debated and currently controversial issues of public policy  
8 or social affairs;

9 (2) teachers who choose to discuss current events or  
10 widely debated and currently controversial issues of public policy  
11 or social affairs shall, to the best of their ability, strive to  
12 explore such issues from diverse and contending perspectives  
13 without giving deference to any one perspective;

14 (3) no school district or teacher shall require, make  
15 part of a course, or award course grading or credit including extra  
16 credit for, student work for, affiliation with, or service learning  
17 in association with any organization engaged in lobbying for  
18 legislation at the local, state or federal level, or in social or  
19 public policy advocacy; and

20 (4) no school district or teacher shall require, make  
21 part of a course, or award course grading or credit including extra  
22 credit for, political activism, lobbying, or efforts to persuade  
23 members of the legislative or executive branch to take specific  
24 actions by direct communication at the local, state or federal  
25 level, or any practicum or like activity involving social or public  
26 policy advocacy.

27 (5) No teacher, administrator, or other employee in

1 any state agency, school district, campus, open-enrollment charter  
2 school, or school administration shall be required to engage in  
3 training, orientation, or therapy that presents any form of race or  
4 sex stereotyping or blame on the basis of race or sex.

5 (6) No teacher, administrator, or other employee in  
6 any state agency, school district, campus, open-enrollment charter  
7 school, or school administration shall shall require, or make part  
8 of a course the following concepts: (1) one race or sex is  
9 inherently superior to another race or sex; (2) an individual, by  
10 virtue of his or her race or sex, is inherently racist, sexist, or  
11 oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously; (3) an  
12 individual should be discriminated against or receive adverse  
13 treatment solely or partly because of his or her race or sex; (4)  
14 members of one race or sex cannot and should not attempt to treat  
15 others without respect to race or sex; (5) an individual's moral  
16 character is necessarily determined by his or her race or sex; (6)  
17 an individual, by virtue of his or her race or sex, bears  
18 responsibility for actions committed in the past by other members  
19 of the same race or sex; (7) any individual should feel discomfort,  
20 guilt, anguish, or any other form of psychological distress on  
21 account of his or her race or sex; or (8) meritocracy or traits such  
22 as a hard work ethic are racist or sexist, or were created by a  
23 members of a particular race to oppress members of another race.

24 (h-3) No private funding shall be accepted by state  
25 agencies, school district, campuses, open-enrollment charter  
26 schools, or school administrations for the purposes of curriculum  
27 development, purchase or choice of curricular materials, teacher

1 training, or professional development pertaining to courses on  
2 Texas, United States, and world history, government, civics, social  
3 studies, or similar subject areas.

4 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2021-2022  
5 school year

6 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
7 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
8 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
9 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
10 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.