

By: Bonnen, et al.

H.B. No. 4509

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 4509:

By: Dutton

C.S.H.B. No. 4509

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to instruction on informed American patriotism in public
3 schools.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 4.001(b), Education Code, is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (b) The objectives of public education are:

8 OBJECTIVE 1: Parents will be full partners with educators in
9 the education of their children.

10 OBJECTIVE 2: Students will be encouraged and challenged to
11 meet their full educational potential.

12 OBJECTIVE 3: Through enhanced dropout prevention efforts,
13 all students will remain in school until they obtain a high school
14 diploma.

15 OBJECTIVE 4: A well-balanced and appropriate curriculum will
16 be provided to all students. Through that curriculum, students will
17 be prepared to succeed in a variety of postsecondary activities,
18 including employment and enrollment in institutions of higher
19 education.

20 OBJECTIVE 5: Educators shall cultivate in [~~will prepare~~]
21 students an informed American patriotism and lead students in a
22 close study of the founding documents of the United States and
23 Texas. The purpose of this objective is to:

24 (1) increase students' knowledge of the deepest and

1 noblest purposes of the United States and Texas;

2 (2) enhance students' intellectual independence so
3 that students may become [~~be~~] thoughtful, informed [~~active~~]
4 citizens who have an appreciation for the fundamental democratic
5 principles [~~basic values~~] of our state and national heritage; and

6 (3) guide students toward understanding [~~who can~~
7 ~~understand~~] and productively functioning [~~function~~] in a free
8 enterprise society.

9 OBJECTIVE 6: Qualified and highly effective personnel will be
10 recruited, developed, and retained.

11 OBJECTIVE 7: The state's students will demonstrate exemplary
12 performance in comparison to national and international standards.

13 OBJECTIVE 8: School campuses will maintain a safe and
14 disciplined environment conducive to student learning.

15 OBJECTIVE 9: Educators will keep abreast of the development
16 of creative and innovative techniques in instruction and
17 administration using those techniques as appropriate to improve
18 student learning.

19 OBJECTIVE 10: Technology will be implemented and used to
20 increase the effectiveness of student learning, instructional
21 management, staff development, and administration.

22 OBJECTIVE 11: The State Board of Education, the agency, and
23 the commissioner shall assist school districts and charter schools
24 in providing career and technology education to students.

25 SECTION 2. Section [28.002](#), Education Code, is amended by
26 amending Subsection (h) and adding Subsections (h-1) and (h-2) to
27 read as follows:

1 (h) The State Board of Education and each school district
2 shall require [~~foster~~] the [~~continuation of the tradition of~~]
3 teaching of informed American patriotism, [United States and] Texas
4 history, and the free enterprise system [~~in regular subject matter~~
5 ~~and in reading courses and~~] in the adoption of instructional
6 materials for kindergarten through grade 12, including the founding
7 documents of the United States. A primary purpose of the public
8 school curriculum is to prepare thoughtful, informed [~~active~~]
9 citizens who understand the importance of patriotism and can
10 function productively in a free enterprise society with
11 appreciation for the fundamental [~~basic~~] democratic principles
12 [~~values~~] of our state and national heritage.

13 (h-1) In adopting the essential knowledge and skills for the
14 foundation curriculum under Subsection (a)(1), the State Board of
15 Education shall, as appropriate, adopt essential knowledge and
16 skills that develop each student's civic knowledge, including an
17 understanding of:

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

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

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

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

- 1 (A) the Declaration of Independence;
- 2 (B) the United States Constitution;
- 3 (C) the Federalist Papers, including Essays 10
4 and 51;
- 5 (D) excerpts from Alexis de Tocqueville's
6 Democracy in America;
- 7 (E) the transcript of the first Lincoln-Douglas
8 debate; and
- 9 (F) the writings of the founding fathers of the
10 United States.

11 (h-2) In providing instruction regarding the founding
12 documents of the United States as described by Subsection (h-1)(4),
13 a school district or open-enrollment charter school shall use those
14 documents as part of the instructional materials for the
15 instruction.

16 SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with the 2021-2022
17 school year.

18 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
19 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
20 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
21 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
22 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.