

By: Bonnen

H.B. No. 4509

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to instruction in informed patriotism in public schools.

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

SECTION 1. Section 4.001, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 4.001. Public Education Mission and Objectives. (b) The objectives of public education are:

OBJECTIVE 1: Parents will be full partners with education in the education of their children

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

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

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

OBJECTIVE 5: Educators ~~will~~ must prepare cultivate in students an informed patriotism, which consists primarily of leading students through close study of America's and Texas' founding documents. This objective's purpose is to:

(A) ~~be~~ increase students' knowledge of their country's and

1 state's deepest and noblest purposes,

2 (B) enhance students' intellectual independence, in order  
3 that they become thoughtful, ~~active~~ effective citizens who have an  
4 appreciation for the ~~basic values~~ fundamental moral principles of  
5 our state and national heritage, and

6 (C) guide students toward ~~who can~~ understanding and  
7 productively functioning in a free enterprise society.

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

10 OBJECTIVE 7: The state's students will demonstrate  
11 exemplary performance in comparison to national and international  
12 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 and 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 to  
26 read as follows:

27 Sec. 28.002. Required Curriculum. (h) The State Board of

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

11 SECTION 3. Section 28.002, Education Code, is amended by  
12 adding Subsection (h-1) to read as follows:

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

17 (1) the fundamental moral, political, and  
18 intellectual foundations of the American experiment in  
19 self-government, as well as the history, qualities, traditions, and  
20 features of civics in the United States;

21 (2) the structure, function, and processes of  
22 government institutions at the federal, state, and local levels;  
23 and

24 (3) the Founding documents of the United States,  
25 including the Declaration of Independence, the United States  
26 Constitution, the Federalist Papers (including but not limited to  
27 Essays 10 and 51), excerpts from Alexis de Tocqueville's Democracy

1 in America, the first Lincoln-Douglas debate, and the writings of  
2 the Founding Fathers of the United States.

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

5 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
6 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
7 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
8 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
9 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.