88R1623 CXP-F

By:  Oliverson H.B. No. 2273

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the foundation curriculum and 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 amending Subsections (h-1), (h-2), and (h-6) and adding Subsection (h-3) to read as follows:

(h-1)  In adopting the essential knowledge and skills for the foundation curriculum under Subsection (a)(1), the State Board of Education shall, as appropriate, 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)  political ideologies, such as communism and totalitarianism, that conflict with the principles of freedom and democracy essential to the founding principles of the United States;

(3)  the student's shared rights and responsibilities as a resident of this state;

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

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

(6) [~~(4)~~]  the founding documents of the United States, including:

(A)  the entirety of the Declaration of Independence;

(B)  the entirety of the United States Constitution;

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

(D)  excerpts from Alexis de Tocqueville's Democracy in America;

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

(F)  the writings of the founding fathers of the United States;

(G)  the entirety of Frederick Douglass's speeches "The Meaning of July Fourth for the Negro" and "What the Black Man Wants"; and

(H)  the entirety of Martin Luther King Jr.'s speech "I Have a Dream."

(h-2)  In adopting the essential knowledge and skills for the social studies curriculum for each grade level from kindergarten through grade 12, the State Board of Education shall adopt essential knowledge and skills that develop each student's civic knowledge, including:

(1)  an understanding of:

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

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

(C)  the civic-minded expectations of an upright and desirable citizenry that recognizes and accepts responsibility for preserving and defending the blessings of liberty inherited from prior generations and secured by the United States Constitution;

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

(E) [~~(D)~~]  the founding documents of the United States;

(2)  the ability to:

(A)  analyze and determine the reliability of information sources;

(B)  formulate and articulate reasoned positions;

(C)  understand the manner in which local, state, and federal government works and operates through the use of simulations and models of governmental and democratic processes;

(D)  advocate effectively before governing bodies and officials;

(E)  actively listen and engage in civil discourse, including discourse with those with different viewpoints; and

(F) [~~(E)~~]  participate as a citizen in a constitutional democracy by voting; and

(3)  an appreciation of:

(A)  the importance and responsibility of participating in civic life;

(B)  a commitment to the United States and its form of government; and

(C)  a commitment to free speech and civil discourse.

(h-3)  The State Board of Education shall adopt oral history resources to be used by school districts in instruction in the essential knowledge and skills adopted under Subsections (h-1) and (h-2) that provide portraits in patriotism based on the personal stories of diverse individuals who demonstrate civic-minded qualities, including first-person accounts of victims of other nations' governing philosophies who can compare those philosophies with the governing philosophies of the United States.

(h-6)  In providing instruction regarding the founding documents of the United States as described by Subsection (h-1)(6) [~~(h-1)(4)~~], a school district or open-enrollment charter school shall use those documents as part of the instructional materials for the instruction.

SECTION 2.  This Act applies beginning with the 2023-2024 school year.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2023.