By:  Oliverson, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Creighton) H.B. No. 2273

(In the Senate - Received from the House May 11, 2023; May 11, 2023, read first time and referred to Committee on Education; May 22, 2023, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 12, Nays 1; May 22, 2023, sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE VOTE

                    Yea Nay Absent  PNV

Creighton         X

Campbell             X

Bettencourt          X

Birdwell             X

Flores               X

King                 X

LaMantia             X

Menéndez                 X

Middleton            X

Parker               X

Paxton               X

Springer             X

West                 X

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to including an understanding of certain political ideologies in the foundation 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) 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, socialism, fascism, and totalitarianism, that conflict with the principles of freedom and democracy essential to the founding principles of the United States;

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

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

(5) [~~(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-3)  In providing instruction regarding the political ideologies described by Subsection (h-1)(2), a school district or open-enrollment charter school shall use first-person accounts as part of the instructional materials for the instruction.

(h-6)  In providing instruction regarding the founding documents of the United States as described by Subsection (h-1)(5) [~~(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.

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