

By: Oliverson

H.B. No. 2273

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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

8 (h-1) In adopting the essential knowledge and skills for the
9 foundation curriculum under Subsection (a)(1), the State Board of
10 Education shall, as appropriate, adopt essential knowledge and
11 skills that develop each student's civic knowledge, including an
12 understanding of:

13 (1) the fundamental moral, political, and
14 intellectual foundations of the American experiment in
15 self-government;

16 (2) political ideologies, such as communism and
17 totalitarianism, that conflict with the principles of freedom and
18 democracy essential to the founding principles of the United
19 States;

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

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

24 (5) [~~3~~] the structure, function, and processes of

1 government institutions at the federal, state, and local levels;
2 and

3 (6) [~~(4)~~] the founding documents of the United States,
4 including:

5 (A) the entirety of the Declaration of
6 Independence;

7 (B) the entirety of the United States
8 Constitution;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 (1) an understanding of:

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

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

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

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

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

16 (2) the ability to:

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

19 (B) formulate and articulate reasoned positions;

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

23 (D) advocate effectively before governing bodies
24 and officials;

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

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

3 (3) an appreciation of:

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
26 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
27 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this

H.B. No. 2273

1 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

2 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.