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H.B. No. 178

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to social studies curriculum choice for public school
students.

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

SECTION 1. Section 28.002(a), Education Code, is amended to
read as follows:

(a) Each school district that offers kindergarten through
grade 12 shall offer, as a required curriculum:

(1) a foundation curriculum that includes:

(A) English language arts;

(B) mathematics;

(C) science; and

(D) social studies, consisting of Texas, United
States, and world history, government, economics, with emphasis on
the free enterprise system and its benefits, ~~and~~ geography, and
ethnic studies; and

(2) an enrichment curriculum that includes:

(A) to the extent possible, languages other than
English;

(B) health, with emphasis on:

(i) physical health, including the
importance of proper nutrition and exercise;

(ii) mental health, including instruction
about mental health conditions, substance abuse, skills to manage

emotions, establishing and maintaining positive relationships, and responsible decision-making; and

(iii) suicide prevention, including recognizing suicide-related risk factors and warning signs;

(C) physical education;

(D) fine arts;

(E) career and technology education;

(F) technology applications;

(G) religious literature, including the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) and New Testament, and its impact on history and literature; and

(H) personal financial literacy.

SECTION 2. Section 28.025(b-1), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b-1) The State Board of Education by rule shall require that the curriculum requirements for the foundation high school program under Subsection (a) include a requirement that students successfully complete:

(1) four credits in English language arts under Section 28.002(a)(1)(A), including one credit in English I, one credit in English II, one credit in English III, and one credit in an advanced English course authorized under Subsection (b-2);

(2) three credits in mathematics under Section 28.002(a)(1)(B), including one credit in Algebra I, one credit in geometry, and one credit in any advanced mathematics course authorized under Subsection (b-2);

(3) three credits in science under Section

1 28.002(a)(1)(C), including one credit in biology, one credit in any
2 advanced science course authorized under Subsection (b-2), and one
3 credit in integrated physics and chemistry or in an additional
4 advanced science course authorized under Subsection (b-2);

5 (4) three credits in social studies under Section
6 28.002(a)(1)(D), including one credit in United States history, at
7 least one-half credit in government and at least one-half credit in
8 economics or personal financial literacy & economics, and one
9 credit in ethnic studies, world geography, or world history;

10 (5) except as provided under Subsections (b-12),
11 (b-13), and (b-14), two credits in the same language in a language
12 other than English under Section 28.002(a)(2)(A);

13 (6) five elective credits;

14 (7) one credit in fine arts under Section
15 28.002(a)(2)(D); and

16 (8) except as provided by Subsection (b-11), one
17 credit in physical education under Section 28.002(a)(2)(C).

18 SECTION 3. Section 28.025(b-1), Education Code, as amended
19 by this Act, applies only to students entering the ninth grade
20 during the 2026-2027 school year or a later school year. For
21 students entering a grade above ninth grade during the 2026-2027
22 school year, Section 28.025(b-1), Education Code, as that section
23 existed before amendment by this Act, applies, and that section is
24 continued in effect for that purpose.

25 SECTION 4. 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

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

2 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.