

By: Middleton

S.B. No. 453

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the inclusion of a course on modern conflicts in the
3 curriculum requirements for public high school students.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 28.025, Education Code, is amended by
6 amending Subsection (b-1) and adding Subsection (b-25) to read as
7 follows:

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

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

16 (2) three credits in mathematics under Section
17 28.002(a)(1)(B), including one credit in Algebra I, one credit in
18 geometry, and one credit in any advanced mathematics course
19 authorized under Subsection (b-2);

20 (3) three credits in science under Section
21 28.002(a)(1)(C), including one credit in biology, one credit in any
22 advanced science course authorized under Subsection (b-2), and one
23 credit in integrated physics and chemistry or in an additional
24 advanced science course authorized under Subsection (b-2);

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

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

10 (6) four and one-half ~~[five]~~ elective credits;

11 (7) one credit in fine arts under Section
12 28.002(a)(2)(D); and

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

15 (b-25) In adopting rules under Subsection (b-1), the State
16 Board of Education shall ensure that a course on modern conflicts
17 taken to comply with the requirements under Subsection (b-1)(4)
18 includes instruction in accordance with Section 28.0122.

19 SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code, is
20 amended by adding Section 28.0122 to read as follows:

21 Sec. 28.0122. REQUIRED COURSE ON MODERN CONFLICTS. A
22 course in modern conflicts required under Section 28.025(b-1)(4)
23 must include instruction relating to:

24 (1) the modern history of Russia, including:

25 (A) the Bolshevik Revolution;

26 (B) the Chernobyl disaster;

27 (C) the government structure of the Soviet Union

1 and the disbursement of wealth in the region;

2 (D) the collapse of the Soviet Union, including
3 the Revolutions of 1989 and Ronald Reagan's "Tear Down This Wall"
4 and "Evil Empire" speeches;

5 (E) economic reform under Mikhail Gorbachev;

6 (F) the invasion of Afghanistan and the funding
7 by the United States of the mujahideen related to the invasion; and

8 (G) relevant political ideologies, including:

9 (i) Leninism;

10 (ii) War Communism; and

11 (iii) Stalinism, including atrocities
12 committed under Stalin;

13 (2) the history of the People's Republic of China,
14 including:

15 (A) the rise of the Communist Party of China;

16 (B) the concept of the Great Leap Forward;

17 (C) the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests;

18 (D) any history of famine experienced in the
19 country;

20 (E) the conquering of Tibet and the effects on
21 the Dalai Lama; and

22 (F) the treatment of ethnic and religious
23 minorities, including the Uyghurs and Tibetans and the followers of
24 Falun Gong;

25 (3) the history of North Korea;

26 (4) the Communist Party of Cuba and the economic
27 effects of communism on Cuba;

- 1 (5) the Cambodian Genocide;
2 (6) the fall of the Berlin Wall;
3 (7) the Gulf War and Operation Desert Storm;
4 (8) the attacks of September 11, 2001, and the
5 collapse of the World Trade Center Twin Towers; and
6 (9) the Iraq and Afghan Wars, including:
7 (A) the history of Saddam Hussein;
8 (B) the history of the mujahideen and the
9 Taliban;
10 (C) the concept of Sharia law;
11 (D) the history of Osama Bin Laden; and
12 (E) the history of the Islamic State of Iraq and
13 Syria (ISIS).

14 SECTION 3. Section 28.025(b-1), Education Code, as amended
15 by this Act, applies only to students entering the ninth grade
16 during the 2025-2026 school year or a later school year. For
17 students entering a grade above ninth grade during the 2025-2026
18 school year, Section 28.025(b-1), Education Code, as that section
19 existed before amendment by this Act, applies, and that section is
20 continued in effect for that purpose.

21 SECTION 4. This Act applies beginning with the 2025-2026
22 school year.

23 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
24 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
25 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
26 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
27 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.