

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021
4

As Engrossed: H1/27/21

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1231

5 By: Representatives Lowery, Bentley, Ladyman, Lundstrum, Richmond, Rye
6 By: Senators G. Stubblefield, M. Johnson, T. Garner, Rapert
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT CREATING THE SAVING AMERICAN HISTORY ACT OF
10 2021; TO PROHIBIT THE USE OF PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDS TO
11 TEACH THE 1619 PROJECT CURRICULUM; TO REDUCE FUNDS
12 DISTRIBUTED TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS THAT TEACH THE 1619
13 PROJECT CURRICULUM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

17 TO PROHIBIT THE USE OF PUBLIC SCHOOL
18 FUNDS TO TEACH THE 1619 PROJECT
19 CURRICULUM; AND TO REDUCE FUNDS
20 DISTRIBUTED TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS THAT TEACH
21 THE 1619 PROJECT CURRICULUM.
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24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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26 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 16, Subchapter 1, is amended
27 to add an additional section to read as follows:

28 6-16-152. 1619 Project curriculum – Funding prohibited.

29 (a) This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Saving
30 American History Act of 2021".

31 (b) The General Assembly finds that:

32 (1) The true date of founding of the United States of America is
33 July 4, 1776, the day the Declaration of Independence was adopted by the
34 Second Continental Congress;

35 (2) The self-evident truths set forth in the Declaration of
36 Independence are the fundamental principles upon which the United States of



1 America was founded;

2 (3) An activist movement is now gaining momentum to deny or
3 obfuscate this history by claiming that the United States of America was not
4 founded on the ideals of the Declaration of Independence, but rather on
5 slavery and oppression;

6 (4) This distortion of the history of the United States of
7 America is being taught to students in public school classrooms via the New
8 York Times' "1619 Project", which claims that "nearly everything that has
9 truly made America exceptional" grew "out of slavery";

10 (5) The 1619 Project is a racially divisive and revisionist
11 account of history that threatens the integrity of the Union by denying the
12 true principles on which it was founded; and

13 (6) The State of Arkansas has a strong interest in promoting an
14 accurate account of the history of the United States of America in public
15 schools and forming young people into knowledgeable and patriotic citizens.

16 (c) As used in this section, "public school" means:

17 (1) A public school;

18 (2) A public school district;

19 (3) An open-enrollment public charter school; and

20 (4) A state-supported two-year or four-year college or
21 university.

22 (d) State funding received by a public school shall not be used by a
23 public school to:

24 (1) Teach the 1619 Project curriculum in a public school; or

25 (2) Facilitate the teaching of the 1619 Project curriculum in a
26 public school.

27 (e) A public school that teaches the 1619 Project curriculum shall:

28 (1)(A) Have its state funding reduced in an amount equal to the
29 cost associated with teaching the 1619 Project curriculum, which shall
30 include without limitation planning and teaching time.

31 (B) However, state funding for the following shall not be
32 reduced based on a public school teaching the 1619 Project curriculum:

33 (i) Programs for low-income public school students;
34 and

35 (ii) Programs for students with disabilities; and

36 (2) Not receive Enhanced Student Achievement Funding under § 6-

1 20-2305(b)(4) for purposes of professional development.

2 (f)(1) The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education and Division
3 of Higher Education shall promulgate rules necessary to implement this
4 section.

5 (2) When adopting the initial rules to implement this section,
6 the final rules shall be filed with the Secretary of State for adoption under
7 § 25-15-204(f):

8 (A) On or before January 1, 2022; or

9 (B) If approval under § 10-3-309 has not occurred by
10 January 1, 2022, as soon as practicable after approval under § 10-3-309.

11 (3) The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education and
12 Division of Higher Education shall file the proposed rules with the
13 Legislative Council under § 10-3-309(c) sufficiently in advance of January 1,
14 2022, so that the Legislative Council may consider the rule for approval
15 before January 1, 2022.

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