

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2021-045

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

A Bill

SENATE BILL 707

5
6 By: Senator Elliott

7 Filed with: Senate Committee on Education
8 pursuant to A.C.A. §10-3-217.

For An Act To Be Entitled

9
10 AN ACT TO CREATE THE CULTURALLY RELEVANT AND
11 INCLUSIVE EDUCATION PRACTICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE; AND
12 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

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14
15 TO CREATE THE CULTURALLY RELEVANT AND
16 INCLUSIVE EDUCATION PRACTICES ADVISORY
17 COMMITTEE.

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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

22
23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 10, Subchapter 1, is amended
24 to add an additional section to read as follows:

25 6-10-135. Culturally Relevant and Inclusive Education Practices
26 Advisory Committee.

27 (a) The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education shall establish
28 and appoint members to the Culturally Relevant and Inclusive Education
29 Practices Advisory Committee for the purposes of:

- 30 (1) Strengthening culturally relevant education practices; and
31 (2) Supporting anti-bias education and appropriate responses to
32 bias.

33 (b) The committee shall include without limitation a geographically,
34 ethnically, and religiously diverse representation of:

- 35 (1) Teachers;
36 (2) Curriculum specialists;

- 1 (3) Principals;
- 2 (4) Superintendents;
- 3 (5) Advocates;
- 4 (6) Institutions of higher education;
- 5 (7) Parents and legal guardians;
- 6 (8) Members of the General Assembly; and
- 7 (9) Community-based organizations.

8 (c) The committee shall provide recommendations to the division during
9 the 2021-2022 State Board of Education review and approval of the history and
10 social studies academic standards for content to be added to the history and
11 social studies academic standards, including without limitation:

12 (1) The historical underpinnings of the Holocaust and other
13 genocides in the context of how increased lower levels of hate, ridicule, and
14 dehumanization led to larger acts of violence and state-sponsored
15 discrimination and violence;

16 (2) Slavery and other forms of historical dehumanizing
17 injustices and discrimination;

18 (3) Anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, and other types of
19 discrimination;

20 (4) The ignored and untold history and the indigenous peoples of
21 North America; and

22 (5) The untold histories of other groups that historically have
23 been underrepresented in American and world history.

24 (d) The committee shall provide recommendations for the issuance of
25 division guidelines for public school district personnel and staff regarding
26 the provision of age-appropriate anti-bias education to students, including
27 without limitation:

28 (1) Recognition that anti-bias and anti-discrimination education
29 is the work and responsibility of all staff members within a public school
30 district;

31 (2) An emphasis on diversity and building a community of
32 empathy, respect, understanding, and connection;

33 (3) An examination of how lower levels of hate, ridicule, and
34 dehumanization lead to larger acts of violence, discrimination, and violence;

35 (4) An acknowledgement of:

1 (A) Inequity on the individual level, including without
2 limitation:

3 (i) Biased speech; and

4 (ii) Harassment;

5 (B) Injustice at the institutional and systemic level,
6 including without limitation discrimination; and

7 (C) The harmful impact of inequity and injustice on the
8 community, historically and today;

9 (5) Responses to various forms of racism, bigotry, and
10 discrimination that:

11 (A) Are school-based and classroom-based

12 (B) Are student-centered and have been proven effective;

13 and

14 (C) Promote empathy, respect, understanding, and

15 connection;

16 (6) Updates to the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas
17 Public Schools and School Districts that emphasize the causes and
18 ramifications of the Holocaust and other genocides;

19 (7) Meaningful professional development related to culturally
20 relevant and inclusive education practices; and

21 (8) Updates to policies governing:

22 (A) Teacher preparation programs;

23 (B) Teacher licensure; and

24 (C) Professional development requirements for the renewal
25 of teaching licenses.

26 (e) The committee shall provide recommendations under subsections (c)
27 and (d) of this section to the following:

28 (1) The Governor;

29 (2) The state board;

30 (3) The division;

31 (4) The Chair of the House Committee on Education; and

32 (5) The Chair of the Senate Committee on Education.

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35 Referred requested by the Arkansas Senate

36 Prepared by: MBM/KFW

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