

1 State of Arkansas
2 81st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 1997

A Bill

SENATE BILL 307

4
5 By: Senator Edwards
6 By: Representative Wilkins

For An Act To Be Entitled

7
8
9
10 "AN ACT REQUIRING THE DIRECTOR OF THE GENERAL EDUCATION
11 DIVISION OF THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO
12 OVERSEE DISSEMINATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS AND
13 TRAINING FOR THE TEACHING OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY IN
14 GRADES K-12 IN ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND TRAINING IN
15 RACIAL AND ETHNIC AWARENESS AND SENSITIVITY FOR TEACHERS
16 AND ADMINISTRATORS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Subtitle

17
18
19 "REQUIRING THE DIRECTOR OF THE GENERAL
20 EDUCATION DIVISION OF THE DEPT. OF
21 EDUCATION TO OVERSEE DISSEMINATION OF
22 INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS FOR AFRICAN-
23 AMERICAN HISTORY AND TRAINING IN RACIAL
24 AND ETHNIC AWARENESS."

25
26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

27
28 SECTION 1. (a)(1) The Director of the General Education Division of
29 the Arkansas Department of Education shall establish a task force to select
30 instructional resource materials appropriate for teaching African-American
31 history in all grade clusters in kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) in
32 the public schools.

33 (2) Such task force shall be known as the Black History Task
34 Force, consisting of seven (7) members appointed by the chairman of the Black
35 History Advisory Committee of the Arkansas History Commission, and shall
36 further advise the director in the selection of:

1 (A) Training components for using the instructional
2 resource materials; and

3 (B) Training components for assisting teachers and
4 administrators in developing a greater awareness of ethnic and racial
5 differences, improving interpersonal skills, and enhancing racial harmony.

6 (b)(1) The director shall ensure that selection of instructional
7 resource materials and training components is completed during the 1997-98
8 school year and that all materials are provided to the school districts and
9 all training concluded by no later than August 1, 1999.

10 (2) All training shall be delivered through the statewide system
11 of education service cooperatives and the three (3) Pulaski County school
12 districts.

13 (c) The director shall report annually to the Black History Advisory
14 Committee of the Arkansas History Commission regarding implementation of this
15 act.

16 (d) The Department of Education is authorized to promulgate regulations
17 to carry out the provisions of this act and shall distribute to each local
18 school district a copy of such regulations.

19 (e) Dissemination of materials and all training required under this act
20 shall be contingent upon the availability of funds appropriated for such
21 purposes.

22

23 SECTION 2. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature
24 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code
25 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

26

27 SECTION 3. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to
28 any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect
29 other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without
30 the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
31 act are declared to be severable.

32

33 SECTION 4. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are
34 hereby repealed.

35