

1 State of Arkansas
2 92nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2019
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1747

5 By: Representative Dotson
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT CONCERNING AMERICAN HERITAGE IN PUBLIC
9 SCHOOLS; TO EXPAND THE TYPES OF HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS
10 AND EVENTS THAT MAY BE DISCUSSED, READ, OR POSTED IN
11 A PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING OR CLASSROOM; AND FOR OTHER
12 PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

15 TO EXPAND THE TYPES OF HISTORICAL
16 DOCUMENTS AND EVENTS THAT MAY BE
17 DISCUSSED, READ, OR POSTED IN A PUBLIC
18 SCHOOL BUILDING OR CLASSROOM.
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22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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24 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-16-122 is amended to read as follows:
25 6-16-122. American heritage.

26 (a) ~~Local school district boards of directors shall allow any A~~
27 teacher or administrator in a public school district of this state ~~to~~ may
28 read or post in a public school building, or classroom, ~~or event~~ any excerpts
29 or portions of:

30 (1) The Preamble to the Arkansas Constitution;

31 (2) The Declaration of Independence;

32 (3) The United States Constitution;

33 (4) Amendments 1-10 of the United States Constitution, known as
34 "the Bill of Rights";

35 ~~(4)~~(5) The Mayflower Compact;

36 ~~(5)~~(6) The national motto;



- 1 ~~(6)~~(7) The national anthem;
- 2 ~~(7)~~(8) The Pledge of Allegiance;
- 3 ~~(8)~~(9) The writings, speeches, documents, and proclamations of
- 4 the founding fathers and ~~Presidents~~ presidents of the United States;
- 5 ~~(9)~~(10) Organic documents from the pre-Colonial, Colonial,
- 6 Revolutionary, Federalist, and post-Federalist eras;
- 7 ~~(10)~~(11) United States Supreme Court decisions and records; ~~and~~
- 8 ~~(11)~~(12) Acts and published records of the United States
- 9 Congress;
- 10 (13) Thomas Paine’s 1776 pamphlet entitled "Common Sense";
- 11 (14) Executive orders of the presidents of the United States;
- 12 (15) The Northwest Ordinance;
- 13 (16) President George Washington’s Farewell Address;
- 14 (17) The Emancipation Proclamation;
- 15 (18) The Gettysburg Address; and
- 16 (19) Any other document of historical significance relating to
- 17 the founding of the United States or the State of Arkansas.

18 (b) There shall be no content-based censorship of American history or

19 heritage in this state based on religious or other references in these

20 writings, documents, and records.

21 (c) A copy of this section shall be distributed to the superintendent

22 of each public school district in the state by the Department of Education,

23 ~~whereupon~~ and the public school district superintendents then shall provide a

24 copy of this section to each teacher and each public school district board

25 member.

26 (d) To ensure public high school students understand the United

27 States’ representative form of limited government, the liberties secured in

28 the Bill of Rights, federalism, and other basic principles that are essential

29 to the stability and endurance of our constitutional republic, a public

30 school district may:

31 (1) Require that public high school students demonstrate

32 knowledge and understanding of the nation’s founding and documents relevant

33 to the nation’s founding in order to receive a certificate or diploma of

34 graduation from the public high school;

35 (2) Include among the requirements for graduation from a public

36 high school in the public school district a passing grade in a course that

1 includes without limitation primary instruction regarding:

2 (A) The Declaration of Independence;

3 (B) The United States Constitution and its amendments; and

4 (C) Representative readings from the Federalist Papers;

5 and

6 (3) Require that a public high school teach public high school
7 students about the nation's founding and documents relevant to the nation's
8 founding, including without limitation:

9 (A) The Declaration of Independence;

10 (B) The United States Constitution and its amendments; and

11 (C) Representative readings from the Federalist Papers.

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