

House Bill 1237

By: Representative Hill of the 3rd

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 20-2-142.1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 coursework in the founding philosophy and principles of the United States of America, so
3 as to provide that the Bill of Rights are the first ten amendments to the United States
4 Constitution and had origins in rationalism, empiricism, and religious texts, including, but
5 not limited to, the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament of the Bible; to provide for
6 instructional requirements; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for
7 other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Code Section 20-2-142.1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to coursework
11 in the founding philosophy and principles of the United States of America, is amended by
12 revising subsection (c) as follows:

13 "(c) Each local board of education may require all students, as a condition of graduation,
14 during their ninth through twelfth grade years to complete and pass a separate semester
15 course covering the following founding philosophy and principles of the United States of
16 America:

17 (1) America's founding philosophy, to include at least the following:

18 (A) As articulated in the Declaration of Independence the foundational idea of the
19 Creator-endowed unalienable rights of the people;

20 (B) The purpose of limited government, which is to protect the unalienable rights of
21 the people and to protect the people from violence and fraud;

22 (C) The structure of government, separation of powers, and checks and balances; and

23 (D) The rule of law, with frequent and free elections in a representative government
24 which governs by majority vote within a constitutional framework;

25 (2) America's founding principles, to include at least the following:

- 26 (A) Federalism-government as close to the people as possible, limited federal
 27 government, and strong state and local government;
- 28 (B) Freedoms of speech, press, religion, and peaceful assembly guaranteed by the Bill
 29 of Rights, which are the first ten amendments to the United States Constitution and
 30 which had origins in rationalism, empiricism, and religious texts, including, but not
 31 limited to, the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament of the Bible;
- 32 (C) Rights to private property and freedom of individual enterprise;
- 33 (D) The innocence of any crime until proven guilty, with right of habeas corpus, and
 34 no unreasonable searches, seizures, or cruel and unusual punishment;
- 35 (E) A virtuous and moral people educated in the philosophy and principles of
 36 government for a free people;
- 37 (F) The right to a speedy trial by a jury of peers;
- 38 (G) The principles of economy in spending, constitutional limitations on government
 39 power to tax and spend, and prompt payment of public debt;
- 40 (H) Economic system of money with intrinsic value;
- 41 (I) Equality before the law and due process of law with grand jury indictment for
 42 capital crimes before holding a person to account;
- 43 (J) The right of people to keep and bear arms, strong defense capability, supremacy of
 44 civil authority over military;
- 45 (K) Peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations, entangling alliances with
 46 none;
- 47 (L) All laws concise and understandable by the people and not ex post facto laws;
- 48 (M) Eternal vigilance by 'We the People'; and
- 49 (N) Founding documents including Declaration of Independence, the United States
 50 Constitution, and the Federalist Papers; and
- 51 (3) Transformational movements in American history, to include at least the following:
- 52 (A) The antislavery movement;
- 53 (B) The Civil Rights movement;
- 54 (C) Women's suffrage;
- 55 (D) The contributions of immigrants to American society; and
- 56 (E) The history of the Native American population."

57 **SECTION 2.**

58 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.