

Senate Bill 15–Prefile

By: Senator Anderson of the 43rd

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 create a new category of coursework dealing with the history of Black people and their
4 contributions to American society; to provide for instructional requirements; to provide for
5 related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(A) Federalism-government as close to the people as possible, limited federal government, and strong state and local government;

(B) Freedoms of speech, press, religion, and peaceful assembly guaranteed by the Bill of Rights;

(C) Rights to private property and freedom of individual enterprise;

(D) The innocence of any crime until proven guilty, with right of habeas corpus, and no unreasonable searches, seizures, or cruel and unusual punishment;

(E) A virtuous and moral people educated in the philosophy and principles of government for a free people;

(F) The right to a speedy trial by a jury of peers;

(G) The principles of economy in spending, constitutional limitations on government power to tax and spend, and prompt payment of public debt;

(H) Economic system of money with intrinsic value;

(I) Equality before the law and due process of law with grand jury indictment for capital crimes before holding a person to account;

(J) The right of people to keep and bear arms, strong defense capability, supremacy of civil authority over military;

(K) Peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations, entangling alliances with none;

(L) All laws concise and understandable by the people and not ex post facto laws;

(M) Eternal vigilance by 'We the People'; and

(N) Founding documents, including the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, and the Federalist Papers; and

(3) Transformational movements in American history, to include at least the following:

(A) The antislavery movement;

(B) The Civil Rights movement;

(C) Women's suffrage;

(D) The contributions of immigrants to American society; and

(E) The history of the Native American population; and

(4) The history of Black Americans, including the history of Black people before the political conflicts that led to the development of slavery, the passage to America, the enslavement experience, the antislavery movement, and the contributions of Black people to American society.

(d) The Department of Education and local boards of education, as appropriate, may provide, or cause to be provided, curriculum content which reflects the content standards addressed pursuant to subsection (c) of this Code section and teacher training to ensure that the intent and provisions of this Code section are implemented. Teachers, subject to the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education and local boards of education, shall teach such course efficiently and faithfully, using instructional materials that meet the highest standards for professionalism and historical accuracy and employing approved methods of instruction."

SECTION 2.

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