

Senate Bill 15

By: Senators Anderson of the 43rd, Jones II of the 22nd, Davenport of the 44th, Butler of the 55th, Seay of the 34th and others

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:

- 16 (A) As articulated in the Declaration of Independence the foundational idea of the
17 Creator-endowed unalienable rights of the people;
- 18 (B) The purpose of limited government, which is to protect the unalienable rights of
19 the people and to protect the people from violence and fraud;
- 20 (C) The structure of government, separation of powers, and checks and balances; and
21 (D) The rule of law, with frequent and free elections in a representative government
22 which governs by majority vote within a constitutional framework;
- 23 (2) America's founding principles, to include at least the following:
- 24 (A) Federalism-government as close to the people as possible, limited federal
25 government, and strong state and local government;
- 26 (B) Freedoms of speech, press, religion, and peaceful assembly guaranteed by the Bill
27 of Rights;
- 28 (C) Rights to private property and freedom of individual enterprise;
- 29 (D) The innocence of any crime until proven guilty, with right of habeas corpus, and
30 no unreasonable searches, seizures, or cruel and unusual punishment;
- 31 (E) A virtuous and moral people educated in the philosophy and principles of
32 government for a free people;
- 33 (F) The right to a speedy trial by a jury of peers;
- 34 (G) The principles of economy in spending, constitutional limitations on government
35 power to tax and spend, and prompt payment of public debt;
- 36 (H) Economic system of money with intrinsic value;
- 37 (I) Equality before the law and due process of law with grand jury indictment for
38 capital crimes before holding a person to account;
- 39 (J) The right of people to keep and bear arms, strong defense capability, supremacy of
40 civil authority over military;
- 41 (K) Peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations, entangling alliances with
42 none;

- 43 (L) All laws concise and understandable by the people and not ex post facto laws;
- 44 (M) Eternal vigilance by 'We the People'; and
- 45 (N) Founding documents, including the Declaration of Independence, the United States
- 46 Constitution, and the Federalist Papers; and
- 47 (3) Transformational movements in American history, to include at least the following:
- 48 (A) The antislavery movement;
- 49 (B) The Civil Rights movement;
- 50 (C) Women's suffrage;
- 51 (D) The contributions of immigrants to American society; and
- 52 (E) The history of the Native American population; and
- 53 (4) The history of Black Americans, including the history of Black people before the
- 54 political conflicts that led to the development of slavery, the passage to America, the
- 55 enslavement experience, the antislavery movement, and the contributions of Black people
- 56 to American society.
- 57 (d) The Department of Education and local boards of education, as appropriate, may
- 58 provide, or cause to be provided, curriculum content which reflects the content standards
- 59 addressed pursuant to subsection (c) of this Code section and teacher training to ensure that
- 60 the intent and provisions of this Code section are implemented. Teachers, subject to the
- 61 rules and regulations of the State Board of Education and local boards of education, shall
- 62 teach such course efficiently and faithfully, using instructional materials that meet the
- 63 highest standards for professionalism and historical accuracy and employing approved
- 64 methods of instruction."

65 **SECTION 2.**

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