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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

H.B. 322  
134<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

## Bill Analysis

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsor:** Rep. Jones

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### SUMMARY

- With respect to a course in history, civics, or a similar subject area, prohibits public schools and state agencies from (1) requiring the discussion of current events, (2) requiring or awarding course credit for lobbying or other work surrounding social or public policy advocacy, and (3) accepting private funding to develop curriculum, purchase course materials, or provide training.
- Prohibits a state agency or public school from teaching any administrator, teacher, staff, member, or employee to adopt or believe in any of the specified concepts.
- Prohibits the State Board of Education from adopting any model curriculum regarding specified concepts.
- Prohibits any teacher or school administrator or any employee of a public school or state agency from approving, making use of, or carrying out standards, curricula, lesson plans, textbooks, instructional materials, or instructional practices that serve to inculcate specified concepts.

### DETAILED ANALYSIS

#### Prohibitions related to specified concepts

The bill establishes several prohibitions related to the teaching of certain concepts in public schools (school districts, community schools, STEM schools) and state agencies.

#### Prohibited concepts

The prohibited concepts are:

- One race or sex is inherently superior to another race or sex.
- An individual, by virtue of the individual's race or sex, is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously.

- An individual should be discriminated against or receive adverse treatment solely or partly because of the individual's race.
- Members of one race cannot and should not attempt to treat others without respect to race.
- An individual's moral standing or worth is necessarily determined by the individual's race or sex.
- An individual, by virtue of the individual's race or sex, bears responsibility for actions committed in the past by other members of the same race or sex.
- An individual should feel discomfort, guilt, anguish, or any other form of psychological distress on account of the individual's race or sex.
- Meritocracy or traits such as a hard work ethic are racist or sexist or were created by a particular race or sex to oppress another race or sex.
- Fault, blame, or bias should be assigned to a race or sex or members of that race or sex because of their race or sex.
- The advent of slavery in the United States constituted the true founding of the United States.
- With respect to their relationship to American values, slavery and racism are anything other than deviations from, betrayals of, or failures to live up to the authentic founding principles of the United States, which include liberty and equality.<sup>1</sup>

## **Prohibitions**

### **In history and related courses**

With respect to a course in history, civics, or a similar subject area, the bill prohibits a state agency, public school, or school administration from doing any of the following:

1. Requiring the teacher to discuss current events or widely debated and currently controversial issues of public policy or social affairs;
2. Requiring, making a part of the course, or awarding course grading or credit for lobbying, work affiliation, or service in association with a lobbying organization, or any practicum, action project, or similar activity involving social or public policy advocacy; or
3. Accepting private funding to develop curriculum, purchase or select course materials, or provide training, professional development, or continuing education related to the course.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> R.C. 3313.6028(A).

<sup>2</sup> R.C. 3313.6027, 3314.03(A)(11)(d), and 3326.11.

### **Staff adoption of beliefs**

The bill prohibits a state agency or public school from teaching, instructing, or training any administrator, teacher, staff, member, or employee to adopt or believe in any of the prohibited concepts.<sup>3</sup>

### **Model curriculum**

The bill prohibits the State Board of Education from adopting any model curriculum regarding the prohibited concepts.<sup>4</sup>

### **Sincerely held beliefs**

The bill specifies that no teacher can be required by a policy of any state agency, public school, or school administration to affirm a belief in the systemic nature of racism, or like ideas, or in the multiplicity or fluidity of gender ideas, or like ideas, against the teacher's sincerely held religious or philosophical convictions.<sup>5</sup>

### **Teaching prohibited concepts**

The bill further prohibits any teacher or school administrator employed by a public school or any employee of a state agency, without respect to course content, from approving, making use of, or carrying out standards, curricula, lesson plans, textbooks, instructional materials, or instructional practices that serve to inculcate the prohibited concepts. If a student does complete a course that includes these concepts, the bill provides that the course not count toward the requirements for high school graduation.<sup>6</sup>

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## **HISTORY**

Action	Date
Introduced	05-25-21

H0322-I-134/ts

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<sup>3</sup> R.C. 3313.6028(A), 3314.03(A)(11)(d), and 3326.11

<sup>4</sup> R.C. 3301.079(B)(1), last paragraph.

<sup>5</sup> R.C. 3313.6029.

<sup>6</sup> R.C. 3313.6028(B) and (C), 3314.03(A)(11)(d), and 3326.11.