

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

4 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
5 FOR
6 HOUSE BILL NO. 1397

By: Lepak of the House

and

Bergstrom of the Senate

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10 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

11 An Act relating to schools; mandating curriculum
12 include a unit on the civil rights movement;
13 providing description of curriculum; directing the
14 State Superintendent of Public Instruction to prepare
15 and make available materials; providing for
16 codification; and providing an effective date.

17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

18 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
19 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 11-103.6p of Title 70, unless
20 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

21 A. The State Department of Education shall develop and make
22 available to every public elementary school and high school in the
23 State of Oklahoma, a curriculum that may be taught as a stand-alone
24 unit of instruction, or may be integrated into one or more existing
 courses of study, studying the events of the civil rights movement

1 from 1954 to 1968, the natural law and natural rights principles
2 that the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., drew from that informed
3 his leadership of the civil rights movement, and the tactics and
4 strategies of nonviolent resistance that he championed in response
5 to the Jim Crow laws of that era. This period in American history
6 is known as the civil rights era because during this period reform-
7 minded Americans organized to press for a rejection of the doctrine
8 of "separate but equal" and to repeal the Jim Crow-era laws in parts
9 of the United States that embodied that doctrine. One of the
10 universal lessons of the civil rights era is that hatred on the
11 basis of immutable characteristics, including not just race or
12 ethnicity, but also characteristics such as nationality, religious
13 belief, disability, or sex, can overtake any nation or society,
14 leading to profound injustice. To reinforce that lesson, such
15 curriculum shall include an additional unit of instruction studying
16 other acts of discriminatory injustice, such as genocide, committed
17 elsewhere around the globe. The study of this material is a
18 reaffirmation of the commitment of the people of this state to
19 reject bigotry, to champion equal protection under the law as a
20 foundational principle of our Republic, and to act in opposition to
21 injustice wherever it may occur.

22 B. The State Department of Education shall identify resources
23 and provide exemplar units or sample lesson plans designed to help
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1 teachers provide instruction on the subject matter outlined in this
2 act.

3 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2023.
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5 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON COMMON EDUCATION, dated 03/01/2023
6 - DO PASS, As Amended and Coauthored.
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