

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 57th Legislature (2019)

3 SENATE BILL 572

By: Bullard

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to school curriculum; amending 70
8 O.S. 2011, Section 11-103.6b, as amended by Section
9 1, Chapter 257, O.S.L. 2018 (70 O.S. Supp. 2018,
10 Section 11-103.6b), which relates to social studies
11 curriculum and textbooks; requiring the United States
12 history component of certain curriculum to include
13 certain information about the original intent of the
14 founding fathers; allowing teachers to discuss the
15 role of religion; encouraging teachers to use certain
16 sources and quotes; providing an effective date; and
17 declaring an emergency.

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

19 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 11-103.6b,
20 as amended by Section 1, Chapter 257, O.S.L. 2018 (70 O.S. Supp.
21 2018, Section 11-103.6b), is amended to read as follows:

22 Section 11-103.6b. A. The State Board of Education shall adopt
23 a social studies core curriculum with courses of instruction for all
24 students enrolled in the public schools that reflect the racial,
25 ethnic, religious, and cultural diversity of the United States of
26 America. The United States history and Oklahoma history components
27 required in the social studies curriculum for all students shall

1 include, but not be limited to, African Americans, Native Americans,
2 and Hispanic Americans. The United States history component
3 required in the social studies curriculum for all students shall
4 include information:

5 1. Information about Juneteenth commemorating emancipation of
6 enslaved African Americans; and

7 2. Information regarding the original intent of the founding
8 fathers while constructing the United States Constitution. Teachers
9 of United States history may discuss the role of religion, including
10 but not limited to Christianity and the Bible, while discussing the
11 foundational documents and principles of the United States if
12 presented objectively as part of a secular program of education.

13 Teachers shall be encouraged to use primary sources and direct
14 quotes from the founding fathers, including but not limited to the
15 writings of Noah Webster, Joseph Story and John Adams.

16 B. The State Textbook Committee, when adopting textbooks, shall
17 incorporate the provisions of subsection A of this section into the
18 criteria used to evaluate United States history and Oklahoma history
19 textbooks. Any United States history or Oklahoma history textbook
20 on the state adopted textbook list shall conform to the purposes of
21 this section. The State Textbook Committee shall ensure that all
22 social studies textbooks and supplementary materials selected to be
23 purchased with state funds for use in Oklahoma classrooms reflect
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1 the racial, ethnic, religious, and cultural diversity of the United
2 States.

3 C. It is the intent of the Legislature that a portion of the
4 state funds appropriated for professional development in local
5 school districts be used for workshops, seminars, guest lecturers,
6 and other methods which further the purposes of this section.

7 D. As used in this section, "curriculum" means the subject
8 matter standards adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to
9 Section 11-103.6 of this title. School districts shall exclusively
10 determine instruction, specific course curricula, reading lists and
11 instructional materials pursuant to subsection F of Section 11-
12 103.6a of this title.

13 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 2019.

14 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
15 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby
16 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
17 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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