

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

SENATE BILL 867

By: Bullard

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to school curriculum; amending 70 O.S. 2021, Section 11-103.6b, which relates to social studies curriculum and textbooks; requiring the United States history component to include certain information about the original intent of the founding fathers; requiring teachers to use certain primary sources and specific quotes; directing inclusion of certain primary sources; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2021, Section 11-103.6b, is amended to read as follows:

Section 11-103.6b. A. The State Board of Education shall adopt a social studies core curriculum with courses of instruction for all students enrolled in the public schools that reflect the racial, ethnic, religious, and cultural diversity of the United States of America. The United States history and Oklahoma history components required in the social studies curriculum for all students shall include, but not be limited to, African Americans, Native Americans, and Hispanic Americans. The United States history component

1 required in the social studies curriculum for all students shall
2 include information:

3 1. Information about Juneteenth commemorating emancipation of
4 enslaved African Americans; and

5 2. Information regarding the original intent of the founding
6 fathers while constructing the United States Constitution. Teachers
7 of United States history shall include primary sources from the
8 founding era and throughout America's history and specific quotes
9 from the founding fathers about America's Christian heritage
10 including the influence of the Ten Commandments and the Bible on
11 America's founding documents if presented objectively as part of a
12 secular program of education. Primary sources shall include but not
13 be limited to John Adams, Joseph Story, George Washington, Benjamin
14 Rush, Samuel Adams, Patrick Henry, John Jay, James Otis, and Noah
15 Webster.

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
24

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, 2023.

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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