

HOUSE BILL 429

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AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4 and Title 49, Chapter 50, relative to the creation of a state oversight committee for the inclusion of African American history as part of the public school curriculum in Tennessee.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 50, is amended by creating the following as a new part:

**49-50-1801.**

(a) There is created a state oversight committee for the inclusion of African American history, known herein as the "oversight committee," to ensure that the implementation of African American History 01-AAH 52 of Tennessee social study standards in this state is accurate and consistently applied.

(b) The oversight committee is composed of five (5) members to be appointed as follows:

(1) The speaker of the senate shall appoint a teacher in the intermediate grades, grades four through eight (4-8) who possesses educational knowledge in the subject of African American history;

(2) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint a teacher in the lower grades, grades kindergarten through three (K-3) who possesses educational knowledge in the subject of African American history;

(3) The governor shall appoint a teacher in the upper grade subjects, grades nine through twelve (9-12) who possesses educational knowledge in the subject of African American history; and

(4) The commissioner of education shall appoint two (2) persons who are citizens of this state who are not employed in the public kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) educational system but who are knowledgeable of education issues in this state and who possess educational knowledge in the subject of African American history.

(c) In order to stagger the terms of the newly appointed oversight committee members:

(1) The person appointed under subdivision (b)(1) serves an initial term of one (1) year, which expires on June 30, 2022;

(2) The person appointed under subdivision (b)(2) serves an initial term of two (2) years, which expires on June 30, 2023;

(3) The person appointed under subdivision (b)(3) serves an initial term of three (3) years, which expires on June 30, 2024; and

(4) The persons appointed under subdivision (b)(4) serve initial terms of three (3) years, which expire on June 30, 2024.

(d)

(1) Following the expiration of their initial terms, all appointed members of the oversight committee serve terms of three (3) years.

(2) Members of the oversight committee serve until their successors have been appointed, with vacancies to be filled in the same manner as provided in the original appointments.

(e) In making the appointments pursuant to subsection (b), the appointing authorities shall strive to ensure that the oversight committee is composed of persons who are diverse in professional or educational background, ethnicity, race, sex, geographic residency, heritage, perspective, and experience.

(f)

(1) Vacancies on the oversight committee are filled by the appropriate appointing authority.

(2) Members of the oversight committee may be removed by their respective appointing authority for cause.

(g)

(1) The commissioner of education shall call the first meeting of the oversight committee, which thereafter shall meet at least quarterly.

(2) A quorum consists of a majority of the membership of the oversight committee.

**49-50-1802.** The purposes of the oversight committee are to:

(1) Ensure that the state department of education and public schools in this state implement materials and textbooks that integrate the history and contributions of African Americans and the descendants of the African diaspora;

(2) Include the history of Africans and African Americans as a prominent part of the social studies curriculum in order to provide an accurate, complete, and inclusive history of the subject;

(3) Ensure that teachers in this state are equipped to effectively teach revised social studies core curriculum content standards; and

(4) Create and coordinate workshops, seminars, institutes, memorials, and events to raise public awareness of the prominent role African Americans have played in the growth and development of American society.

**49-50-1803.** The oversight committee shall:

(1) Survey and inventory educational programs, materials, and curricula being used to teach American history in public schools;

(2) Guide and act as a liaison to textbook publishers, schools, resource organizations, and federal and state legislators to ensure that American history curricula are consistent with the oversight commission's goals; and

(3) Compose a directory of volunteer and professional consultants who can share their knowledge of the role African Americans have played in American history.

**49-50-1804.**

(a) The department of education shall provide support services to the oversight committee.

(b) The members of the oversight committee serve without compensation but are entitled to reimbursement of any travel expenses incurred. All reimbursement for travel expenses must be in conformity with the comprehensive state travel regulations as promulgated by the commissioner of finance and administration and approved by the attorney general and reporter.

SECTION 2. For the purpose of appointing members to the oversight committee, this act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act takes effect July 1, 2021, the public welfare requiring it.