



HOUSE BILL 686: Civil Rights Education.

2023-2024 General Assembly

Committee:	House Education - K-12. If favorable, re-refer to Appropriations. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	June 21, 2023
Introduced by:	Reps. Hardister, Blackwell, Quick	Prepared by:	Samantha Yarborough Committee Counsel
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition H686-CSTC-40		

OVERVIEW: *The first edition of House Bill 686 would require a unit on civil rights be taught in elementary, middle, and high school and would appropriate \$250,000 to the Department of Public Instruction to implement this requirement. The PCS would require a unit on civil rights be taught in middle and high school and would make additional technical changes.*

CURRENT LAW: G.S. 115C-81.45(b) requires that local boards of education provide instruction in United States citizenship, United States government, and North Carolina government.

G.S. 115C-81.45(c) requires the State Board of Education to include instruction in civic and citizenship education in the standard course of study for middle school social studies.

G.S. 115C-81.45(d) requires the State Board of Education to include instruction in civic and citizenship education in the standard course of study for high school social studies through a full-credit course called Founding Principles of the United States of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy (Civic Literacy). A passing grade in the course is required for high school graduation. The course must focus solely on civics and citizenship education, including topics such as equal justice under the law and individual rights set forth in the Bill of Rights.

BILL ANALYSIS: Section 1 would require a unit on civil rights be taught as part of middle school social studies and the high school course in Civic Literacy. The unit would include the following topics:

- The civil rights movement that occurred in the United States from 1954 through 1968.
- The philosophy that hatred on the basis of immutable characteristics leads to profound injustice.
- Instruction on other acts of discriminatory injustice to reinforce that hatred on the basis of immutable characteristics can overtake any society.

Section 2 would appropriate \$250,000 to the Department of Public Instruction to implement the bill.

EFFECTIVE DATE: House Bill 686 would be effective July 1, 2023, and apply beginning with courses taught in the 2024-2025 school year.

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