

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2023

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HOUSE BILL 686

Short Title: Civil Rights Education. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Hardister, Blackwell, and Quick (Primary Sponsors).

For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Education - K-12, if favorable, Appropriations, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

April 19, 2023

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE CIVIL RIGHTS EDUCATION TO EVERY STUDENT IN THE STATE.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. Part 1 of Article 8 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

"§ 115C-81.58. Civil rights education.

The standard course of study shall include the requirement that courses from elementary school through high school include units on the civil rights movement that occurred in the United States from 1954 through 1968. The units shall include at least the following topics:

- (1) The natural law and natural rights principles that informed the leadership of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- (2) The tactics and strategies of nonviolent resistance that Dr. King championed in response to the Jim Crow laws of that era.
- (3) The repeal of the Jim Crow laws of that era and the passage of civil rights legislation in the United States.
- (4) The philosophy that hatred on the basis of immutable characteristics leads to profound injustice.
- (5) Instruction on other acts of discriminatory injustice, such as genocide, elsewhere around the globe to reinforce the lesson that hatred on the basis of immutable characteristics can overtake any society. Examples of such acts include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a. The Armenian Genocide.
 - b. The Holocaust.
 - c. Chinese Coolie labor in Cuba.
 - d. The Uighurs in China.
 - e. The Rohingya in Myanmar."

SECTION 2. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Public Instruction the sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal year for the implementation of this act.

SECTION 3. This act becomes effective July 1, 2023, and applies to courses taught beginning with the 2024-2025 school year.



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