

By: Madden

H.B. No. 1172

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to public school curriculum and textbooks.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 28.002(h), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(h) The State Board of Education and each school district shall foster the continuation of the tradition of teaching United States and Texas history and the free enterprise system in regular subject matter and in reading courses and in the adoption of textbooks. A primary purpose of the public school curriculum is to prepare thoughtful, active citizens who understand the importance of patriotism and can function productively in a free enterprise society with appreciation for the basic democratic values of our state and national heritage. In meeting that primary purpose, the board and each school district shall ensure that:

(1) the public school curriculum reflects the importance of patriotism and promotes an appreciation for our free enterprise system and basic democratic values;

(2) each historical event addressed in the public school curriculum meets a reasonable test of historical significance, considering the limited amount of time available for instruction;

(3) each controversial issue addressed in the public school curriculum is presented in a balanced manner that reflects

1 multiple viewpoints regarding the issue; and

2 (4) the public school curriculum reflects an overall  
3 tone that portrays the United States as a country that has overcome  
4 its mistakes and emerged as the freest, most democratic nation in  
5 the history of the world.

6 SECTION 2. Section 31.023(a), Education Code, is amended to  
7 read as follows:

8 (a) For each subject and grade level, the State Board of  
9 Education shall adopt two lists of textbooks. The conforming list  
10 includes each textbook submitted for the subject and grade level  
11 that meets applicable physical specifications adopted by the State  
12 Board of Education, ~~and~~ contains material covering each element  
13 of the essential knowledge and skills of the subject and grade level  
14 as determined by the State Board of Education under Section 28.002,  
15 is consistent with the requirements applicable to curriculum under  
16 Section 28.002(h), and is adopted under Section 31.024. The  
17 nonconforming list includes each textbook submitted for the subject  
18 and grade level that:

19 (1) meets applicable physical specifications adopted  
20 by the State Board of Education;

21 (2) contains material covering at least half, but not  
22 all, of the elements of the essential knowledge and skills of the  
23 subject and grade level;

24 (3) is consistent with the requirements applicable to  
25 curriculum under Section 28.002(h); and

26 (4) [~~3~~] is adopted under Section 31.024.

27 SECTION 3. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) of this

1 section, this Act applies beginning with the 2003-2004 school year.

2 (b) Section 31.023(a), Education Code, as amended by this  
3 Act, applies only to a textbook adopted by the State Board of  
4 Education on or after September 1, 2004.

5 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
6 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
7 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
8 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
9 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.