

By: Geren

H.B. No. 1291

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the inclusion of American principles in the public school curriculum and instructional materials.

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

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

(h-1) To accomplish the primary purpose stated in Subsection (h), the State Board of Education and each school district shall ensure that:

(1) the public school curriculum emphasizes an understanding of the principles underlying the United States form of government, including the study of the Founding Fathers of the United States, the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the Federalist Papers;

(2) each historical event addressed in the public school curriculum meets a reasonable standard of historical significance, in relation to the limited amount of available instructional time;

(3) any issue included in the public school curriculum that is considered controversial is presented in a balanced manner that includes multiple viewpoints regarding the issue; and

(4) any curriculum generated, purchased, or otherwise obtained by a district, including dual credit, advanced placement, and international baccalaureate social studies courses, is in

1 compliance with the appropriate essential knowledge and skills
2 requirements adopted under this section.

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

5 (a) For each subject and grade level, the State Board of
6 Education shall adopt a list of instructional materials. The list
7 includes each instructional material submitted for the subject and
8 grade level that meets applicable physical specifications adopted
9 by the State Board of Education, that ~~[and]~~ contains material that
10 is consistent with the purpose and guidelines of Sections 28.002(h)
11 and (h-1), and that covers ~~[covering]~~ at least half of the elements
12 of the essential knowledge and skills of the subject and grade level
13 in the student version of the instructional material, as well as in
14 the teacher version of the instructional material, as determined by
15 the State Board of Education under Section 28.002 and adopted under
16 Section 31.024.

17 SECTION 3. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) of this
18 section, this Act applies beginning with the 2017-2018 school year.

19 (b) The changes in law made by this Act to Section
20 31.023(a), Education Code, apply to instructional materials
21 adopted by the State Board of Education on or after September 1,
22 2018.

23 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
24 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
25 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
26 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
27 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.