

Senate Bill 384

By: Senators Millar of the 40th, Ligon, Jr. of the 3rd and Miller of the 49th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 2 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to competencies and curriculum relative to education, so as to require a
3 course of study in America's founding philosophy and founding principles; to provide for
4 legislative findings; to provide for a short title; to require certain course content; to require
5 a passing score for graduation; to require state-wide assessments to include certain content;
6 to provide for a biennial report; to provide for applicability; to provide for related matters;
7 to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 The General Assembly finds that the survival of the Republic requires that the nation's
11 children, who are the future guardians of its heritage and participants in its governance, have
12 a clear understanding of the founding philosophy and the founding principles of our
13 government, which are found in the Declaration of Independence, the United States
14 Constitution, the Federalist Papers, and the writings of the founders, and an understanding
15 of the preservation of such founding philosophy, principles, and documents.

16 **SECTION 2.**

17 The Act shall be known and may be cited as "America's Founding Philosophy and Principle
18 Act."

19 **SECTION 3.**

20 Part 2 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
21 relating to competencies and curriculum, relative to education is amended by adding a new
22 Code section to read as follows:

23 "20-2-142.1.

24 (a) Local boards of education shall prescribe a semester course of study for students during
 25 their ninth through twelfth grade years that focuses on the following:

26 (1) America's founding philosophy, to include at least the following:

27 (A) The Creator-endowed unalienable rights of the people;

28 (B) The purpose of government, which is to protect the unalienable rights of the people
 29 and to protect the people from violence and fraud;

30 (C) The structure of government, separation of powers, and checks and balances; and

31 (D) The rule of law, with frequent and free elections in a representative government
 32 which governs by majority vote within a constitutional framework; and

33 (2) America's founding principles, to include at least the following:

34 (A) Federalism-government as close to the people as possible, limited federal
 35 government, and strong state and local government;

36 (B) Freedoms of speech, press, religion, and peaceful assembly guaranteed by the Bill
 37 of Rights;

38 (C) Rights to private property and freedom of individual enterprise;

39 (D) The innocence of any crime until proven guilty, with right of habeas corpus, and
 40 no unreasonable searches, seizures, or cruel and unusual punishment;

41 (E) The right to a speedy trial by a jury of peers, and grand jury indictment of capital
 42 crimes before a person can be held to account;

43 (F) A virtuous and moral people, educated in the philosophy and principles of
 44 government for a free people;

45 (G) The principles of economy in spending, constitutional limitations on government
 46 power to tax and spend, and prompt payment of public debt;

47 (H) Economic system of money with intrinsic value;

48 (I) The right of people to keep and bear arms, strong defense capability, supremacy of
 49 civil authority over military;

50 (J) Peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations, entangling alliances with
 51 none; and

52 (K) Eternal vigilance by 'We the People.'

53 (b) No student shall be eligible to receive a diploma from a high school unless such student
 54 has received a passing grade in the course required pursuant to this Code section.

55 (c) Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, the State Board of Education shall provide
 56 that any curriculum based assessments developed and administered state-wide pursuant to
 57 Code Section 20-2-281 for students in grades nine through 12 shall include questions
 58 related to the founding philosophy and founding principles contained in subsection (a) of

59 this Code section and the principles underlying the Declaration of Independence, the
60 United States Constitution, and the Federalist Papers.

61 (d) The Department of Education and local boards of education, as appropriate, shall
62 provide, or cause to be provided, curriculum content for the semester course required
63 pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code section and the teacher training to ensure that the
64 intent and provisions of this Code section are implemented.

65 (e) The Department of Education shall submit a biennial report by October 15 of each
66 odd-numbered year to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Education and
67 Youth Committee regarding the implementation of this Code section.

68 (f) This Code section shall apply beginning with the 2014-2015 school year."

69 **SECTION 4.**

70 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.