

The House Committee on Education offers the following substitute to SB 384:

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 include
3 America's founding philosophy and founding principles in content standards and
4 assessments; to provide for legislative findings; to provide for a short title; to provide for
5 curriculum content and teacher training; to amend Code Section 1-4-3 of the Official Code
6 of Georgia Annotated, relating to American History Month, so as to declare September of
7 each year to be Georgians of Great Character Month; to provide for related matters; to repeal
8 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

10 **SECTION 1.**

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

17 **SECTION 2.**

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

20 **SECTION 3.**

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

24 "20-2-142.1.

25 (a) The State Board of Education shall ensure that any new content standards adopted on
 26 and after July 1, 2014, pursuant to Code Section 20-2-141 for students during their ninth
 27 through twelfth grade years and all new assessments aligned with such content standards
 28 take into consideration the following:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

48 (G) Economic system of money with intrinsic value;

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

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

53 (J) Eternal vigilance by 'We the People'; and

54 (K) Founding documents including Declaration of Independence, the United States
 55 Constitution, and the Federalist Papers; and

56 (3) Transformational movements in American history, to include at least the following:

57 (A) The antislavery movement;

58 (B) The Civil Rights movement;

59 (C) Women's suffrage;

60 (D) The contributions of immigrants to American society; and

61 (E) The challenges and history of the Native American population.
62 (b) The Department of Education and local boards of education, as appropriate, may
63 provide, or cause to be provided, curriculum content which reflects the content standards
64 addressed pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code section and the teacher training to ensure
65 that the intent and provisions of this Code section are implemented."

66 **SECTION 3A.**

67 Code Section 1-4-3 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to American History
68 Month, is amended by adding a new subsection to read as follows:

69 "(c) The month of September of each year is designated as Georgians of Great Character
70 Month to encourage the recognition of outstanding persons in Georgia history."

71 **SECTION 4.**

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