

**ADOPTED**

Senators Millar of the 40th and Tippins of the 37th offered the following amendment:

1 *Amend the Senate Education and Youth Committee substitute to HB 897 (LC 33 5645S) by*  
 2 *inserting after "standards;" on line 4 the following:*

3 to include 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 provide for applicability;

6 *By inserting after "foundations;" on line 15 the following:*

7 to amend Code Section 1-4-3 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
 8 American History Month, so as to declare September of each year to be Georgians of Great  
 9 Character Month;

10 *By inserting between lines 110 and 111 the following:*

**SECTION 6A.**

12 Said chapter is further amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

13 "20-2-142.1.

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

20 (b) This Code section shall be known and may be cited as the 'America's Founding  
 21 Philosophy and Principles Act.'

22 (c) The State Board of Education shall ensure that any new content standards adopted on  
 23 and after July 1, 2014, pursuant to Code Section 20-2-141 for 18 week semester courses  
 24 for students during their ninth through twelfth grade years and all new assessments aligned  
 25 with such content standards take into consideration 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;
- 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) The principles of economy in spending, constitutional limitations on government  
 44 power to tax and spend, and prompt payment of public debt;
- 45 (G) Economic system of money with intrinsic value;
- 46 (H) The right of people to keep and bear arms, strong defense capability, supremacy  
 47 of civil authority over military;
- 48 (I) Peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations, entangling alliances with  
 49 none;
- 50 (J) Eternal vigilance by 'We the People'; and
- 51 (K) Founding documents including Declaration of Independence, the United States  
 52 Constitution, and the Federalist Papers; and
- 53 (3) Transformational movements in American history, to include at least the following:
- 54 (A) The antislavery movement;
- 55 (B) The Civil Rights movement;
- 56 (C) Women's suffrage;
- 57 (D) The contributions of immigrants to American society; and
- 58 (E) The challenges and history of the Native American population.
- 59 (d) The Department of Education and local boards of education, as appropriate, shall  
 60 provide, or cause to be provided, curriculum content which reflects the content standards  
 61 addressed pursuant to subsection (c) of this Code section and the teacher training to ensure  
 62 that the intent and provisions of this Code section are implemented. Students shall be  
 63 required to earn a passing grade on semester courses containing such curriculum content  
 64 as a condition of graduation.
- 65 (e) This Code section shall apply beginning in school year 2015-2016."

66 *By inserting between lines 1153 and 1154 the following:*

67 **SECTION 42A.**

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

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