

House Bill 481

By: Representatives Mayo of the 84th, Brooks of the 55th, Jacobs of the 80th, Thomas of the 56th, Dickerson of the 113th, and others

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 core curriculum, so as to require the study and
3 teaching of prescribed aspects of United States and world history; to provide for related
4 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

7 Part 2 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
8 relating to competencies and core curriculum, is amended by adding a new Code section to
9 read as follows:

10 "20-2-149.2.

11 Instructional staff of public schools, in accordance with requirements and guidelines of the
12 State Board of Education and the local board of education, shall teach efficiently and
13 faithfully, using the books and materials required that meet the highest standards for
14 professionalism and historic accuracy, following the prescribed courses of study, and
15 employing approved methods of instruction, the following:

16 (1) The history and content of the Declaration of Independence, including national
17 sovereignty, natural law, self-evident truth, equality of all persons, limited government,
18 popular sovereignty, and inalienable rights of life, liberty, and property, and how they
19 form the philosophical foundation of our government;

20 (2) The history, meaning, significance, and effect of the provisions of the Constitution
21 of the United States and amendments thereto, with emphasis on each of the ten
22 amendments that make up the Bill of Rights and how the Constitution provides the
23 structure of our government;

24 (3) The arguments in support of adopting our republican form of government, as they are
25 embodied in the most important of the Federalist Papers;

26 (4) Flag education, including proper flag display and flag salute;

27 (5) The elements of civil government, including the primary functions of and
28 interrelationships between the federal government, the state, and its counties,
29 municipalities, school systems, and special districts;

30 (6) The history of the United States, including the period of discovery, early colonies,
31 the War for Independence, the Civil War, the expansion of the United States to its present
32 boundaries, the world wars, and the civil rights movement to the present. American
33 history shall be viewed as factual, not as constructed, shall be viewed as knowable,
34 teachable, and testable, and shall be defined as the creation of a new nation based largely
35 on the universal principles stated in the Declaration of Independence;

36 (7) The history of the Holocaust (1933-1945), the systematic, planned annihilation of
37 European Jews and other groups by Nazi Germany, a watershed event in the history of
38 humanity, to be taught in a manner that leads to an investigation of human behavior, an
39 understanding of the ramifications of prejudice, racism, and stereotyping, and an
40 examination of what it means to be a responsible and respectful person, for the purposes
41 of encouraging tolerance of diversity in a pluralistic society and for nurturing and
42 protecting democratic values and institutions;

43 (8) The history of African Americans, including the history of African peoples before
44 the political conflicts that led to the development of slavery, the passage to America, the
45 enslavement experience, abolition, and the contributions of African Americans to society.
46 Instructional materials shall include the contributions of African Americans to American
47 society;

48 (9) The study of Hispanic contributions to the United States;

49 (10) The study of women's contributions to the United States;

50 (11) The study of native Americans' contributions to the United States; and

51 (12) In order to encourage patriotism, the sacrifices that veterans have made in serving
52 our country and protecting democratic values worldwide. Such instruction must occur
53 on or before Veterans Day and Memorial Day. Members of the instructional staff are
54 encouraged to use the assistance of local veterans when practicable."

55 **SECTION 2.**

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