

Senate Bill 202

By: Senators Harbin of the 16th, Ligon of the 3rd, Millar of the 40th, Albers of the 56th,
Shafer of the 48th 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 in elementary and secondary
3 education, so as to require students to complete a course in America's founding philosophy
4 and founding principles; to provide for legislative findings; to provide for a short title; to
5 provide for curriculum content and teacher training; to provide for applicability; to provide
6 for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

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

12 "20-2-142.1.

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

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

21 (c) Each local board of education shall require all students, as a condition of graduation,
22 during their ninth through twelfth grade years to complete and pass a test covering the
23 following founding philosophy and principles of the United States of America:

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

25 (A) As articulated in the Declaration of Independence the foundational idea of the
26 Creator-endowed unalienable rights of the people;

- 27 (B) The purpose of limited government, which is to protect the unalienable rights of
 28 the people and to protect the people from violence and fraud;
 29 (C) The structure of government, separation of powers, and checks and balances; and
 30 (D) The rule of law, with frequent and free elections in a representative government
 31 which governs by majority vote within a constitutional framework; and
 32 (2) America's founding principles, to include at least the following:
 33 (A) Federalism-government as close to the people as possible, limited federal
 34 government, and strong state and local government;
 35 (B) Freedoms of speech, press, religion, and peaceful assembly guaranteed by the Bill
 36 of Rights;
 37 (C) Rights to private property and freedom of individual enterprise;
 38 (D) The innocence of any crime until proven guilty, with right of habeas corpus, and
 39 no unreasonable searches, seizures, or cruel and unusual punishment;
 40 (E) A virtuous and moral people educated in the philosophy and principles of
 41 government for a free people;
 42 (F) The right to a speedy trial by a jury of peers;
 43 (G) The principles of economy in spending, constitutional limitations on government
 44 power to tax and spend, and prompt payment of public debt;
 45 (H) Economic system of money with intrinsic value;
 46 (I) Equality before the law and due process of law with grand jury indictment for
 47 capital crimes before holding a person to account;
 48 (J) The right of people to keep and bear arms, strong defense capability, supremacy of
 49 civil authority over military;
 50 (K) Peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations, entangling alliances with
 51 none;
 52 (L) All laws concise and understandable by the people and not ex post facto laws;
 53 (M) Eternal vigilance by 'We the People'; and
 54 (N) Founding documents including Declaration of Independence, the United States
 55 Constitution, and the Federalist Papers.
 56 (d) The Department of Education and local boards of education, as appropriate, shall
 57 provide, or cause to be provided, curriculum content which reflects the content standards
 58 addressed pursuant to subsection (c) of this Code section and teacher training to ensure that
 59 the intent and provisions of this Code section are implemented.
 60 (e) This Code section shall apply beginning in school year 2017-2018."

SECTION 2.

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