

**ADOPTED**

Senators Harbin of the 16th, Fort of the 39th, Millar of the 40th McKoon of the 29th, Ligon of the 3rd and others offer the following amendment:

1 *Amend the Senate Committee on Education and Youth substitute to HB 502 (LC 33 6191S)*  
 2 *by inserting after "standards;" on line 5 the following:*

3 to amend Part 2 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia  
 4 Annotated, relating to competencies and core curriculum in elementary and secondary  
 5 education, so as to authorize local boards of education to require students to complete a  
 6 course in America's founding philosophy and founding principles and related  
 7 transformational movements; to provide for legislative findings; to provide for a short title;  
 8 to provide for curriculum content and teacher training; to provide for applicability;

9 *By inserting between lines 164 and 165 the following:*

10 **SECTION 6A.**

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

14 "20-2-142.1.

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

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

23 (c) Each local board of education may require all students, as a condition of graduation,  
 24 during their ninth through twelfth grade years to complete and pass a separate semester  
 25 course covering the following founding philosophy and principles of the United States of  
 26 America:

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

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

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

67 addressed pursuant to subsection (c) of this Code section and teacher training to ensure that  
68 the intent and provisions of this Code section are implemented.  
69 (e) This Code section shall apply beginning in school year 2017-2018."