

Senate Bill 384

By: Senators Millar of the 40th, Ligon, Jr. of the 3rd and Miller of the 49th

AS PASSED SENATE

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 provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting
6 laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

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

15 **SECTION 2.**

16 The Act shall be known and may be cited as "America's Founding Philosophy and Principle
17 Act."

18 **SECTION 3.**

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

"20-2-142.1.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(F) A virtuous and moral people, educated in the philosophy and principles of government for a free people;

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

(H) Economic system of money with intrinsic value;

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

(J) Peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations, entangling alliances with none;

(K) Eternal vigilance by 'We the People'; and

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

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

(A) The antislavery movement;

(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.

(b) The Department of Education and local boards of education, as appropriate, shall provide, or cause to be provided, curriculum content which reflects the content standards addressed pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code section and the teacher training to ensure that the intent and provisions of this Code section are implemented."

66 SECTION 4.

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