

House Bill 706

By: Representatives Adesanya of the 43<sup>rd</sup>, McQueen of the 61<sup>st</sup>, Olaleye of the 59<sup>th</sup>, Dawson of the 65<sup>th</sup>, and Cannon of the 58<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to the "Quality Basic Education Act," so as to provide for coursework and  
3 educational programs and activities on the history of Black Americans through the history  
4 of the United States and their contributions to American society; to provide for related  
5 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the  
9 "Quality Basic Education Act," is amended in Part 2, relating to competencies and core  
10 curriculum, by revising subsections (c) and (e) Code Section 20-2-142.1, relating to  
11 coursework in the founding philosophy and principles of the United States of America, as  
12 follows:

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

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- 17 (1) America's founding philosophy, to include at least the following:
- 18 (A) As articulated in the Declaration of Independence the foundational idea of the  
19 ~~Creator-endowed~~ Creator endowed unalienable rights of the people;
- 20 (B) The purpose of limited government, which is to protect the unalienable rights of  
21 the people and to protect the people from violence and fraud;
- 22 (C) The structure of government, separation of powers, and checks and balances; and
- 23 (D) The rule of law, with frequent and free elections in a representative government  
24 which governs by majority vote within a constitutional framework;
- 25 (2) America's founding principles, to include at least the following:
- 26 (A) Federalism-government as close to the people as possible, limited federal  
27 government, and strong state and local government;
- 28 (B) Freedoms of speech, press, religion, and peaceful assembly guaranteed by the Bill  
29 of Rights;
- 30 (C) Rights to private property and freedom of individual enterprise;
- 31 (D) The innocence of any crime until proven guilty, with right of habeas corpus, and  
32 no unreasonable searches, seizures, or cruel and unusual punishment;
- 33 (E) A virtuous and moral people educated in the philosophy and principles of  
34 government for a free people;
- 35 (F) The right to a speedy trial by a jury of peers;
- 36 (G) The principles of economy in spending, constitutional limitations on government  
37 power to tax and spend, and prompt payment of public debt;
- 38 (H) Economic system of money with intrinsic value;
- 39 (I) Equality before the law and due process of law with grand jury indictment for  
40 capital crimes before holding a person to account;
- 41 (J) The right of people to keep and bear arms, strong defense capability, supremacy of  
42 civil authority over military;

- 43 (K) Peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations, entangling alliances with  
 44 none;
- 45 (L) All laws concise and understandable by the people and not ex post facto laws;
- 46 (M) Eternal vigilance by 'We the People'; and
- 47 (N) Founding documents, including the Declaration of Independence, the United States  
 48 Constitution, and the Federalist Papers; and
- 49 (3) Transformational movements in American history, to include at least the following:
- 50 (A) The antislavery movement;
- 51 (B) The Civil Rights movement;
- 52 (C) Women's suffrage;
- 53 (D) The contributions of immigrants to American society; ~~and~~
- 54 (E) The history of the Native American population; and
- 55 (F) The history of Black Americans, including both the struggles and the triumphs of  
 56 Black Americans throughout the history of the United States and the contributions of  
 57 Black Americans to American society."
- 58 "(e) This Code section shall apply beginning in school year ~~2017-2018~~ 2025-2026."

59 **SECTION 2.**

60 Said article is further amended in Part 14, relating to other educational programs, by revising  
 61 Code Section 20-2-308, which is reserved, as follows:

62 "20-2-308.

63 Each local education agency, as such term is defined in Code Section 20-2-167.1, shall  
 64 require each school it operates to conduct educational programs and activities equal to at  
 65 least one class period addressing the history of Black Americans, including both the  
 66 struggles and the triumphs of Black Americans throughout the history of the United States  
 67 and the contributions of Black Americans to American society. Schools are encouraged

68 to focus educational programs and activities on the topics provided for in this Code section  
69 during the month of February. Reserved."

70

**SECTION 3.**

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