

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE
2 BILL NO. 1397

By: Lepak and West (Tammy) of
the House

3 and

4 Bergstrom of the Senate

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7 An Act relating to schools; mandating curriculum
8 include a unit on the civil rights movement;
9 providing description of curriculum; directing the
10 State Superintendent of Public Instruction to prepare
11 and make available materials; providing for
12 codification; and providing an effective date.

13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

14 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
15 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 11-103.6p of Title 70, unless
16 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

17 A. The State Department of Education shall develop and make
18 available to every public elementary school and high school in the
19 State of Oklahoma, a curriculum that may be taught as a stand-alone
20 unit of instruction, or may be integrated into one or more existing
21 courses of study, studying the events of the civil rights movement
22 from 1954 to 1968, the natural law and natural rights principles
23 that the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., drew from that informed
24 his leadership of the civil rights movement, and the tactics and
strategies of nonviolent resistance that he championed in response

1 to the Jim Crow laws of that era. This period in American history
2 is known as the civil rights era because during this period reform-
3 minded Americans organized to press for a rejection of the doctrine
4 of "separate but equal" and to repeal the Jim Crow-era laws in parts
5 of the United States that embodied that doctrine. One of the
6 universal lessons of the civil rights era is that hatred on the
7 basis of immutable characteristics, including not just race or
8 ethnicity, but also characteristics such as nationality, religious
9 belief, disability, or sex, can overtake any nation or society,
10 leading to profound injustice. To reinforce that lesson, such
11 curriculum shall include an additional unit of instruction studying
12 other acts of discriminatory injustice, such as genocide, committed
13 elsewhere around the globe. The study of this material is a
14 reaffirmation of the commitment of the people of this state to
15 reject bigotry, to champion equal protection under the law as a
16 foundational principle of our Republic, and to act in opposition to
17 injustice wherever it may occur.

18 B. The State Department of Education shall identify resources
19 and provide exemplar units or sample lesson plans designed to help
20 teachers provide instruction on the subject matter outlined in this
21 act.

22 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2023.
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1 Passed the House of Representatives the 22nd day of March, 2023.

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4 Presiding Officer of the House
5 of Representatives

6 Passed the Senate the ____ day of _____, 2023.

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9 Presiding Officer of the Senate