

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 April 4, 2023

3 ENGROSSED HOUSE
4 BILL NO. 1397

By: Lepak and West (Tammy) of
the House

5 and

6 Bergstrom of the Senate

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

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

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

19 A. The State Department of Education shall develop and make
20 available to every public elementary school and high school in the
21 State of Oklahoma, a curriculum that may be taught as a stand-alone
22 unit of instruction, or may be integrated into one or more existing
23 courses of study, studying the events of the civil rights movement
24 from 1954 to 1968, the natural law and natural rights principles

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

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

1 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2023.

2 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

3 April 4, 2023 - DO PASS

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