
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 7083 (as amended by House "A")*

AN ACT CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF PUERTO RICAN AND LATINO STUDIES IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CURRICULUM.

SUMMARY

This bill adds climate change to public schools' required program of instruction as part of the science requirement. By law, the required courses of study include arts; language arts, including reading and writing; mathematics; physical education; and social studies, including citizenship, economics, geography, government, and history. Also included are career education; consumer education; and health and safety, including human growth and development, nutrition, and first aid.

The bill requires the climate change curriculum to be consistent with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) adopted by the State Board of Education (SBE) (see BACKGROUND). Current law allows, but does not require, climate change to be included as part of science as long as it is consistent with the NGSS.

*House Amendment "A" strikes the bill (File 615), which added (1) Puerto Rican and Latino studies to school districts' required courses of study and (2) a new high school graduation requirement in Puerto Rican and Latino studies.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2019

BACKGROUND

Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)

The NGSS are K-12 research-based science content standards adopted by SBE in 2015. The standards' foundational document provides that climate changes are significant and persistent changes in the average or extreme weather conditions of an area (National

Research Council. 2012. A Framework for K-12 Science Education: Practices, Crosscutting Concepts, and Core Ideas, Washington, DC: The National Academies Press).

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 35 Nay 0 (03/25/2019)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 37 Nay 8 (05/13/2019)