General Assembly

Raised Bill No. 7082

January Session, 2019

LCO No. 3806

Referred to Committee on EDUCATION

Introduced by:

(ED)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDIES IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CURRICULUM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Section 10-16b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2019):

(a) In the public schools the program of instruction offered shall include at least the following subject matter, as taught by legally qualified teachers, the arts; career education; consumer education; health and safety, including, but not limited to, human growth and development, nutrition, first aid, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation training in accordance with the provisions of section 10-16qq, disease prevention and cancer awareness, including, but not limited to, age and developmentally appropriate instruction in performing self-examinations for the purposes of screening for breast cancer and testicular cancer, community and consumer health, physical, mental and emotional health, including youth suicide prevention, substance abuse prevention, including instruction relating to opioid use and related disorders, safety, which shall include the safe
use of social media, as defined in section 9-601, and may include the
dangers of gang membership, and accident prevention; language arts,
including reading, writing, grammar, speaking and spelling;
mathematics; physical education; science, which may include the
climate change curriculum described in subsection (d) of this section;
social studies, including, but not limited to, citizenship, economics,
geography, government, history, [and] Holocaust and genocide
education and awareness in accordance with the provisions of section
10-18f, and African-American studies in accordance with the
provisions of section 2 of this act; computer programming instruction;
and in addition, on at least the secondary level, one or more world
languages and vocational education. For purposes of this subsection,
world languages shall include American Sign Language, provided
such subject matter is taught by a qualified instructor under the
supervision of a teacher who holds a certificate issued by the State
Board of Education. For purposes of this subsection, the "arts" means
any form of visual or performing arts, which may include, but not be
limited to, dance, music, art and theatre.

(b) If a local or regional board of education requires its pupils to
take a course in a world language, the parent or guardian of a pupil
identified as deaf or hard of hearing may request in writing that such
pupil be exempted from such requirement and, if such a request is
made, such pupil shall be exempt from such requirement.

(c) Each local and regional board of education shall on September 1,
1982, and annually thereafter at such time and in such manner as the
Commissioner of Education shall request, attest to the State Board of
Education that such local or regional board of education offers at least
the program of instruction required pursuant to this section, and that
such program of instruction is planned, ongoing and systematic.

(d) The State Board of Education shall make available curriculum
materials and such other materials as may assist local and regional
boards of education in developing instructional programs pursuant to
this section. The State Board of Education, within available
appropriations and utilizing available resource materials, shall assist and encourage local and regional boards of education to include: (1) Holocaust and genocide education and awareness; (2) the historical events surrounding the Great Famine in Ireland; (3) African-American history; (4) Puerto Rican history; (5) Native American history; (6) personal financial management, including, but not limited to, financial literacy as developed in the plan provided under section 10-16pp; (7) training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of automatic external defibrillators; (8) labor history and law, including organized labor, the collective bargaining process, existing legal protections in the workplace, the history and economics of free market capitalism and entrepreneurialism, and the role of labor and capitalism in the development of the American and world economies; (9) climate change consistent with the Next Generation Science Standards; (10) topics approved by the state board upon the request of local or regional boards of education as part of the program of instruction offered pursuant to subsection (a) of this section; and (11) instruction relating to the Safe Haven Act, sections 17a-57 to 17a-61, inclusive. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection shall be available to each local and regional board of education for the development of curriculum on climate change as described in this subsection.

Sec. 2. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2019) (a) For the school year commencing July 1, 2019, and each school year thereafter, each local and regional board of education shall include African-American studies as part of the social studies curriculum for the school district, pursuant to section 10-16b of the general statutes, as amended by this act. In developing and implementing the African-American studies curriculum, the board may utilize existing and appropriate public or private materials, personnel and other resources, including the curriculum materials made available by the State Board of Education pursuant to subsection (d) of said section 10-16b.

(b) A local or regional board of education may accept gifts, grants and donations, including in-kind donations, designated for the development and implementation of the African-American studies
This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section 1</th>
<th>July 1, 2019</th>
<th>10-16b</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sec. 2</td>
<td>July 1, 2019</td>
<td>New section</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Statement of Purpose:**

To include African-American studies in the social studies component of the public school curriculum.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]