

By: Senator(s) McDaniel

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2559

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI CIVIC LITERACY ACT; TO
 2 REQUIRE THE TEACHING OF THE NATION'S FOUNDING AND RELATED
 3 DOCUMENTS BEGINNING WITH THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEARS; TO REQUIRE
 4 THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO SUBMIT AN ANNUAL REPORT TO
 5 THE GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE
 6 CURRICULUM ON CIVIC LITERACY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

8 **SECTION 1.** This act may be cited as the Mississippi Civic
 9 Literacy Act.

10 **SECTION 2.** The Legislature finds and declares that:

11 (a) The adoption of the Declaration of Independence in
 12 1776 and the signing of the United States Constitution were
 13 principal events in the history of the United States, the
 14 Declaration of Independence providing the philosophical foundation
 15 on which this nation rests and the Constitution of the United
 16 States providing its structure of government;

17 (b) The Federalist Papers embody the most eloquent and
 18 forceful argument made in support of the adoption of our
 19 republican form of government;



20 (c) The Emancipation Proclamation issued by President
21 Abraham Lincoln in 1862 clarified human rights during the crisis
22 of the War Between the States;

23 (d) These documents stand as the foundation of our form
24 of democracy, providing at the same time the basis of our national
25 identity and the vehicle for orderly growth and change;

26 (e) Many Americans lack even the most basic knowledge
27 and understanding of the history of our nation and the principles
28 set forth in the Declaration of Independence, codified in the
29 Constitution and defended in the Federalist Papers and the
30 Emancipation Proclamation; and

31 (f) The survival of the Republic requires that our
32 nation's children, the future guardians of its heritage and
33 participants in its governance, have a firm knowledge and
34 understanding of its principles and history.

35 **SECTION 3.** The purpose and intent of this act are to
36 require, beginning with the 2015-2016 school years, the teaching
37 of the nation's founding and related documents, which shall
38 include the Declaration of Independence, the United States
39 Constitution, the Federalist Papers and the Emancipation
40 Proclamation of 1862.

41 **SECTION 4.** The State Department of Education shall develop
42 and report to the Education Committees of the Senate and House of
43 Representatives on the specific civic literacy curriculum content



44 and teacher training to ensure that the intent of this legislation
45 is satisfied.

46 **SECTION 5.** Beginning with the 2016 Regular Session, the
47 State Department of Education shall submit an annual report to the
48 Governor and the Legislature describing the effectiveness of these
49 civic literacy courses involved pursuant to Sections 3 and 4 of
50 this act.

51 **SECTION 6.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
52 and after July 1, 2015.

