

By: Senator(s) Hill

To: Education;  
Appropriations

SENATE BILL NO. 2538

1 AN ACT TO PREVENT STATE FUNDING FROM BEING USED BY ELEMENTARY  
2 AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO TEACH THE 1619 PROJECT CURRICULUM; TO  
3 PROVIDE THAT ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS THAT TEACH THE 1619  
4 PROJECT CURRICULUM SHALL RECEIVE REDUCED MISSISSIPPI ADEQUATE  
5 EDUCATION PROGRAM FUNDS BY TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT; AND FOR RELATED  
6 PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** This act shall be known and may be cited as the  
9 "Saving American History in Mississippi Schools Act of 2020."

10 **SECTION 2.** The Legislature finds the following:

11 (a) The true date of America's founding is July 4,  
12 1775, the day the Declaration of Independence was adopted by the  
13 Second Continental Congress.

14 (b) The self-evident truths set forth by that  
15 Declaration are the fundamental principles upon which America was  
16 founded.

17 (c) An activist movement is now gaining momentum to  
18 deny or obfuscate this history by claiming that America was not  
19 founded on the ideals of the Declaration but rather on slavery and  
20 oppression. This distortion of American history is being taught



21 to children in public school classrooms via the New York Times'  
22 "1619 Project".

23 (d) The 1619 Project is racially divisive and  
24 revisionist account of history that threatens the integrity of the  
25 Union by denying the true principles on which it was founded.

26 (e) The State of Mississippi has a strong interest in  
27 promoting an accurate account of the Nation's history through  
28 public schools and forming young people into knowledgeable and  
29 patriotic citizens.

30 **SECTION 3.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no  
31 state funds shall be used by any elementary school or secondary  
32 school to teach the 1619 Project Initiative of the New York Times.

33 **SECTION 4.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an  
34 elementary school or secondary school that teaches the 1619  
35 Project initiative of the New York Times in such school shall not  
36 receive any funding for professional development.

37 **SECTION 5.** In the case of an elementary school or secondary  
38 school that receives state funding and teaches the 1619 Project  
39 initiative of the New York Times, the State Department of  
40 Education shall determine the cost associated with teaching the  
41 1619 Project, including in planning time and teaching time.

42 **SECTION 6.** The State Department of Education shall reduce  
43 funds provided to an elementary or secondary school in an amount  
44 equal to the cost amount determined under Section 5 of this act

45 **SECTION 7.** If an elementary school or secondary school



46 teaches the 1619 Project, the State Department of Education shall  
47 reduce the school's allotment of funds from the Mississippi  
48 Adequate Education Program by twenty-five percent (25%) for each  
49 year that the school teaches the 1619 Project.

50 **SECTION 8.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
51 and after July 1, 2021.

