

By: Representative Williamson

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 1491

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE "DIGNITY AND NONDISCRIMINATION IN PUBLIC
 2 EDUCATION ACT" FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROHIBITING THE STATE BOARD OF
 3 EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOLS, LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS, PUBLIC CHARTER
 4 SCHOOLS AND THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNING BOARDS FROM PROVIDING
 5 INSTRUCTION OR INDOCTRINATION ON PRINCIPLES THAT UNDERMINE THE
 6 DIGNITY OF OTHERS, OR FAIL TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS TO
 7 EXPRESS DIFFERING OPINIONS REGARDING ANY SEX, RACE, ETHNICITY,
 8 RELIGION, COLOR OR NATIONAL ORIGIN; TO PROHIBIT THE STATE BOARD OF
 9 EDUCATION FROM EXPENDING FUNDS WHICH PROMOTE THE INSTRUCTION OF
 10 SUCH DIVISIVE POSITIONS; TO PROVIDE THAT PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT
 11 ARE SEVERABLE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

13 **SECTION 1.** This act shall be known and may be cited as the
 14 "Dignity and Nondiscrimination in Public Education Act of 2022."

15 **SECTION 2.** (1) It is the intent of the Legislature that
 16 administrators, faculty members, other employees and students at
 17 public schools, including public charter schools, state
 18 institutions of higher education, and community and junior
 19 colleges respect the dignity of others, acknowledge the right of
 20 others to express differing opinions, and foster and defend
 21 intellectual honesty, freedom of inquiry and instruction, and
 22 freedom of speech and association.



23 (2) The Mississippi Legislature finds that tenets outlined
24 in subsection (3)(a) of this section, often found in "critical
25 race theory," undermined the objectives outlined in subsection (1)
26 of this section and exacerbate and inflame divisions on the basis
27 of sex, race, ethnicity, religion, color, national origin, or
28 other criteria in ways contrary to the unity of the nation and the
29 well-being of the State of Mississippi and its citizens.

30 **SECTION 3.** (1) In accordance with United States
31 Constitution and the Mississippi Constitution, no public
32 institution of higher education, community or junior college,
33 school district or public school, including a public charter
34 school, shall direct or otherwise compel students to personally
35 affirm, adopt or adhere to any of the following tenets:

36 (a) That any sex, race, ethnicity, religion, color or
37 national origin is inherently superior or inferior;

38 (b) That individuals should be adversely treated on the
39 basis of their sex, race, ethnicity, religion, color or national
40 origin; or

41 (c) That individuals, by virtue of sex, race,
42 ethnicity, religion, color or national origin, are inherently
43 responsible for the actions committed in the past by other members
44 of the same sex, race, ethnicity, religion, color or national
45 origin.

46 (2) No distinction or classification of students shall be
47 made on account of race or color.



48 (3) No course of instruction or unit of study directing or
49 otherwise compelling students to personally affirm, adopt, or
50 adhere to any of the tenets identified in paragraph (a) of this
51 subsection shall be used or introduced in any institution of
52 higher education, community or junior college, any school district
53 or any public school, including a public charter school.

54 (4) Nothing in this section should be construed to prohibit
55 the required collection or reporting of demographic data by public
56 schools or public institutions of higher education.

57 **SECTION 4.** No monies shall be expended by the State Board of
58 Education, any entity under the board's jurisdiction, or any
59 school district, or public charter school for any purpose
60 prohibited in Section 3 of this act.

61 **SECTION 5.** The provisions of this act are hereby declared to
62 be severable and if any provisions of this act or the application
63 of such provisions to any person or circumstances are declared
64 invalid for any reason, such declaration shall not affect the
65 validity of the remaining portions of this act.

66 **SECTION 6.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
67 and after July 1, 2022.

