

By: Senator(s) McDaniel

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2171

1 AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE TEACHING OF "CRITICAL RACE THEORY" IN  
2 THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS, INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING AND PUBLIC  
3 CHARTER SCHOOLS; TO PROHIBIT THE EXPENDITURE OF PUBLIC FUNDS IN  
4 VIOLATION OF THIS ACT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1. Dignity and nondiscrimination in public**

7 **education.** (1) It is the intent of the Legislature that  
8 administrators, faculty members, other employees, and students at  
9 public schools, including public charter schools and institutions  
10 of higher education, respect the dignity of others, acknowledge  
11 the right of others to express differing opinions, and foster and  
12 defend intellectual honesty, freedom of inquiry and instruction,  
13 and freedom of speech and association.

14 (2) The Mississippi Legislature finds that tenets outlined  
15 in subsection (3)(a) of this section, often found in "critical  
16 race theory," undermined the objectives outlined in subsection (1)  
17 of this section and exacerbate and inflame divisions on the basis  
18 of sex, race, ethnicity, religion, color, national origin, or



19 other criteria in ways contrary to the unity of the nation and the  
20 well-being of the State of Mississippi and its citizens.

21 (3) In accordance with Section 6, Article IX of the  
22 Constitution of the State of Mississippi and the Mississippi Code:

23 (a) No public institution of higher learning, school  
24 district or public school, including a public charter school,  
25 shall direct or otherwise compel students to personally affirm,  
26 adopt, or adhere to any of the following tenets:

27 (i) That any sex, race, ethnicity, religion, color  
28 or national origin is inherently superior or inferior;

29 (ii) That individuals should be adversely treated  
30 on the basis of their sex, race, ethnicity, religion, color or  
31 national origin; or

32 (iii) That individuals, by virtue of sex, race,  
33 ethnicity, religion, color or national origin, are inherently  
34 responsible for the actions committed in the past by other members  
35 of the same sex, race, ethnicity, religion, color or national  
36 origin.

37 (b) No distinction or classification of students shall  
38 be made on account of race or color.

39 (c) No course of instruction or unit of study directing  
40 or otherwise compelling students to personally affirm, adopt or  
41 adhere to any of the tenets identified in paragraph (a) of this  
42 subsection shall be used or introduced in any institution of



43 higher education, any school district, or any public school,  
44 including a public charter school.

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

48 (5) **Prohibition on the expenditure of monies for certain**  
49 **purposes.** No monies shall be expended by the State Board of  
50 Education, any entity under the State Board of Education's  
51 jurisdiction, or any school district, public school, public  
52 charter school, or public institution of higher learning for any  
53 purpose prohibited in the Mississippi Code, including specifically  
54 the prohibition against teaching critical race theory proscribed  
55 by this act.

56 (6) **Severability.** The provisions of this act are hereby  
57 declared to be severable, and if any provision of this act or the  
58 application of such provision to any person or circumstance is  
59 declared invalid for any reason, such declaration shall not affect  
60 the validity of the remaining portions of this act.

61 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
62 and after July 1, 2022.

