

By: Representatives Brown (70th), Faulkner,
Denton

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 595

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO FULLY
2 IMPLEMENT AN EXISTING COMPREHENSIVE CURRICULUM AND IMPLEMENT
3 COURSES IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDIES AND RACIAL DIVERSITY TO BE
4 INCLUDED IN THE PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION CURRICULUM AS AN
5 OPTIONAL ELECTIVE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** In addition to the curriculum otherwise required
8 by law or the State Board of Education to be taught in the public
9 schools of this state, the board shall fully implement an existing
10 comprehensive curriculum and implement courses in African-American
11 Studies and Racial Diversity for all students in Grade 9 through
12 Grade 12, which shall be offered as an optional elective. In
13 addition to meeting the competencies and objectives established by
14 the State Board of Education in the Mississippi Social Studies
15 Framework, the African-American Studies and Racial Diversity
16 course must:

17 (a) Provide students with an examination of the
18 contributions of people of African descent to American history and
19 emphasis on the importance of diversity in American culture;



20 (b) Provide a chronological framework of African and
21 African-American history;

22 (c) Broaden the knowledge and understandings of
23 students interested in learning about the histories, cultures and
24 economic, geographic and political realities of African Americans;

25 (d) Provide students with an opportunity to engage with
26 the social, economic and political activities of African
27 Americans;

28 (e) Consist of historical content taught with relevance
29 to contemporary and current issues in order to ensure a deeper
30 understanding of cultural issues of the nineteenth and twentieth
31 centuries which have impacted the diverse ethnic and racial
32 populations of the state and nation;

33 (f) Infuse African-American Studies and Racial
34 Diversity as an integral part of American History, including:

35 (i) Slavery;

36 (ii) Post slavery;

37 (iii) The Civil Rights Movements and its
38 contributions;

39 (iv) Reconstruction;

40 (v) Harlem Renaissance;

41 (vi) World Wars I and II; and

42 (vii) Other national and global events.

43 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
44 and after July 1, 2023.

