

By: Senator(s) Wiggins

To: Education

SENATE BILL NO. 2168

1 AN ACT TO CREATE NEW SECTION 37-13-56, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF
 2 1972, TO PROVIDE THAT EVERY PUBLIC AND CHARTER SCHOOL WITHIN THE
 3 STATE SHALL TEACH CIVICS AND GOVERNMENT COURSES STARTING IN THE
 4 EIGHTH GRADE AND BEFORE THE COMPLETION OF TWELFTH GRADE; TO
 5 PROVIDE THAT THE COURSES SHALL FOCUS ON INCREASING STUDENTS'
 6 KNOWLEDGE OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED
 7 STATES AND THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI; TO PROVIDE THAT THE STATE
 8 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL PRESCRIBE THE COURSE OF STUDY; AND
 9 FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

11 **SECTION 1.** The following shall be codified as Section
 12 37-13-56, Mississippi Code of 1972:

13 37-13-56. (1) Every public and charter school located
 14 within the state shall be required to teach history and civics
 15 classes before the completion of high school. Each school shall
 16 require students to complete regular courses of instruction in the
 17 factually accurate history of the United States, in civics, in the
 18 Constitution of the United States and in the government of the
 19 State of Mississippi starting in the eighth grade and before
 20 students complete twelfth grade. The courses shall focus on
 21 fostering and perpetuating the ideals, principles and spirit of



22 political and economic democracy in the United States of America
23 and increasing the knowledge of the organization of the government
24 of the United States and of the State of Mississippi. The courses
25 shall have an emphasis on the study of federalism, the separation
26 of powers, the checks and balances throughout the government and
27 the Bill of Rights. The courses shall not include the teaching of
28 what is colloquially known as "critical race theory."

29 (2) The State Department of Education shall prescribe the
30 courses of study, including the basic course requirements and the
31 academic standards for these courses.

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

