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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 771 Session of  
2023

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INTRODUCED BY BURGOS, HOHENSTEIN, INNAMORATO, YOUNG, MADDEN,  
GIRAL, SCHLOSSBERG, KENYATTA, SANCHEZ, GUENST, DELLOSO, HILL-  
EVANS, PARKER, KINSEY, KINKEAD, FREEMAN, OTTEN, N. NELSON,  
SHUSTERMAN, BULLOCK AND O'MARA, MARCH 30, 2023

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MARCH 30, 2023

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AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An  
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain  
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial  
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the  
5 laws relating thereto," in terms and courses of study,  
6 providing for African-American and Latino history  
7 instruction.

8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
9 hereby enacts as follows:

10 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known  
11 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding a  
12 section to read:

13 Section 1555. African-American and Latino History  
14 Instruction.--(a) No later than twelve (12) months after the  
15 effective date of this section, the Department of Education  
16 shall develop a model curriculum for instruction on African-  
17 American and Latino history. The model curriculum shall:

18 (1) Be age appropriate.

19 (2) Be sequential in method of study.

1 (3) Include the following subjects where appropriate:

2 (i) The study of the role and contributions of African  
3 Americans and Latinos to the economic, political and social  
4 development of the United States and this Commonwealth, with  
5 emphasis on portraying the role of these groups in contemporary  
6 society.

7 (ii) The history of the African slave trade, American  
8 slavery, the depth of slavery's impact on our society and  
9 American history and the aftermath and legacy of slavery.

10 (iii) The history of native culture in the pre-Columbian  
11 period and the impact of colonization, stories of arrival of  
12 different Latino groups, roots of various Latino civil rights  
13 movements, the forced deportation of Latinos in the 1930s and  
14 the "Good Neighbor" foreign policy.

15 (iv) An examination of the historical, economic, social and  
16 cultural contributions of people and descendants of Mexico,  
17 Central and South America and the Caribbean to the economic,  
18 political and social development of the United States and this  
19 Commonwealth.

20 (b) Twelve (12) months after the effective date of this  
21 section, the Department of Education shall make available on the  
22 publicly accessible Internet website of the Department of  
23 Education curriculum materials and other available resources for  
24 the model curriculum developed under subsection (a) for school  
25 entities.

26 (c) Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year and each school  
27 year thereafter, a school entity shall offer instruction in  
28 African-American and Latino history to students. The instruction  
29 shall be integrated within the social sciences and language arts  
30 courses of study required in accordance with State Board of

1 Education regulations. Instruction may also be integrated into  
2 other appropriate courses of study.

3 (d) A school entity may utilize any appropriate public or  
4 private materials and personnel and other resources that comply  
5 with and accurately portray the requirements of the curriculum  
6 developed under subsection (a).

7 (e) For purposes of this section, the term "school entity"  
8 shall mean a school district, charter school, regional charter  
9 school, cyber charter school or intermediate unit.

10 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.