

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025
4

As Engrossed: H3/11/25

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1705

5 By: Representatives Duke, R. Scott Richardson, Bentley, Breaux, A. Brown, K. Brown, Joey Carr,
6 Cozart, Long, McGrew, S. Meeks, Rye, Vaught
7 By: Senators J. Bryant, J. Dotson
8

For An Act To Be Entitled

9
10 AN ACT TO REQUIRE CERTAIN INFORMATION BE EMBEDDED
11 INTO EXISTING SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS; TO REQUIRE
12 INFORMATION CONCERNING HOW THE BELIEFS OF THE
13 FOUNDING FATHERS INFLUENCED THE FOUNDING OF THE
14 UNITED STATES TO BE EMBEDDED INTO EXISTING SOCIAL
15 STUDIES STANDARDS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

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19 TO REQUIRE INFORMATION CONCERNING HOW
20 THE BELIEFS OF THE FOUNDING FATHERS
21 INFLUENCED THE FOUNDING OF THE UNITED
22 STATES TO BE EMBEDDED INTO EXISTING
23 SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS.
24

25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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27 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 16, Subchapter 1, is amended
28 to add an additional section to read as follows:

29 6-16-163. Social studies standards – Beliefs of Founding Fathers.

30 (a) Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, the State Board of
31 Education shall embed into existing social studies standards and courses for
32 grades six through twelve (6-12) information that addresses the founding of
33 the United States, including the founding fathers and their religious beliefs
34 and how their religious beliefs influenced the founding documents of the
35 United States.

36 (b) The information required under subsection (a) of this section



1 shall emphasize the following without limitation:

2 (1) The Preamble to the Declaration of Independence, including
3 the meaning behind and purpose of the quote, "We hold these truths to be
4 self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their
5 Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty
6 and the pursuit of Happiness";

7 (2) The core political beliefs of the founding fathers,
8 including without limitation:

9 (A) Ordered liberty;

10 (B) Equality;

11 (C) Natural rights, including without limitation defense
12 of self, community, and nation;

13 (D) Freedom of speech and press; and

14 (E) The free exercise of religion;

15 (3) How the beliefs of the founding fathers influenced the
16 founding of the United States and documents and concepts relevant to the
17 founding fathers' beliefs, including without limitation:

18 (A) The identity of the "Creator" as viewed by the
19 founding fathers;

20 (B) The nature of mankind, or "human nature", as viewed by
21 the founding fathers;

22 (C) The constitutional requirement for a republican form
23 of government, including the separation of powers and federalism, and the
24 fatal tendency of democracy;

25 (D) The human origin beliefs held by the founding fathers,
26 whereby there is a Creator, and that man is endowed by that Creator with
27 inalienable rights;

28 (E) The definitions of "religion" held by the founding
29 fathers, particularly as found in Section 16 of the Virginia Declaration of
30 Rights;

31 (F) Why there was a demand for a Bill of Rights as a
32 condition for the adoption of the United States Constitution;

33 (G) To what extent the founding fathers recognized the Ten
34 Commandments, the Mosaic Law, the New Testament, and the experiences of the
35 ancient Hebrews, Greeks, and Romans, and these teachings as a basis for
36 American law and public policy;

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(H) To what extent the founding fathers recognized the English Common Law, the Magna Carta, and the English Bill of Rights as a basis for American law and public policy; and

(I) How the recognition of inalienable rights in the Declaration of Independence formed the framework for the abolition of slavery in the United States; and

(4) How the freedoms enjoyed by the citizens of the United States can be traced to the beliefs of the founding fathers.

/s/Duke