

1 State of Arkansas As Engrossed: H3/11/25 H3/17/25

2 95th General Assembly

## A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2025

HOUSE BILL 1705

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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

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### For An Act To Be Entitled

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

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### Subtitle

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

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26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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28 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 16, Subchapter 1, is amended  
29 to add an additional section to read as follows:

30 6-16-163. Social studies standards – Beliefs of Founding Fathers.

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



1 (b) The information required under subsection (a) of this section  
2 shall emphasize the following without limitation:

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

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

10 (A) Ordered liberty;

11 (B) Equality;

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

14 (D) Freedom of speech and press; and

15 (E) The free exercise of religion;

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

20 (A) The identity of the "Creator" as viewed by the  
21 founding fathers;

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

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

27 (D) *The religious and moral beliefs held by the founding*  
28 *fathers*, whereby there is a Creator, and that man is endowed by that Creator  
29 with *inalienable rights*;

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

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

35 (G) To what extent the founding fathers *recognized*  
36 *historical events and texts, such as the Ten Commandments, the Mosaic Law,*

1 the New Testament, and the experiences of the ancient Hebrews, Greeks, and  
2 Romans, and these teachings as a basis for American law and public policy;

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

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

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

11  
12 */s/Duke*

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15 **APPROVED: 4/8/25**  
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