

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

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

4

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.

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