

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 28

BY REPRESENTATIVE GLOVER

CURRICULA: Requests that the Bd. of Regents and the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education study the possibility of allowing a course in African American Studies to satisfy certain curriculum requirements

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Board of Regents and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
3 Education to study and report collaboratively relative to the feasibility and
4 advisability of allowing a course in African American Studies to satisfy certain
5 social studies requirements relative to qualifications for Taylor Opportunity Program
6 for Students awards and high school graduation.

7 WHEREAS, the Constitution of Louisiana provides that it is the goal of the state's
8 public educational system to afford every individual an equal opportunity to develop to his
9 full potential; and

10 WHEREAS, students must fulfill certain curriculum requirements both for purposes
11 of qualifying for a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) award and high school
12 graduation; and

13 WHEREAS, for a traditional high school diploma and to qualify for a TOPS
14 Opportunity, Performance, or Honors award, a student must successfully complete four units
15 of social studies, one of which must be U.S. History and one of which must be a unit of
16 Civics (or a comparable government course); and

17 WHEREAS, students have flexibility in choosing which two courses make up the
18 remaining two required units; they are allowed to choose two units from the following:
19 Western Civilization, European History, or AP European History; World Geography, AP
20 Human Geography, or IB Geography; World History, AP World History, or World History

1 IB; History of Religion; IB Economics, Economics, AP Macroeconomics, or AP
2 Microeconomics; and

3 WHEREAS, there are students and parents who have expressed a strong interest in
4 the possibility of including a unit of African American Studies, not as a replacement for the
5 required U.S. History or Civics courses, but as an option among the list of aforementioned
6 courses from which students may choose two units of study; and

7 WHEREAS, some schools offer African American Studies as a social studies
8 elective, but having it count toward satisfying TOPS core curriculum requirements or
9 graduation prerequisites is not currently an option; and

10 WHEREAS, there has been a move in recent years to align high school graduation
11 requirements with TOPS core curricula requirements; thus, any revisions of these
12 requirements should be made in concert; and

13 WHEREAS, in order to fulfill the state's constitutional duty of affording every
14 student an equal opportunity to develop to his full potential, it is appropriate that the
15 feasibility and advisability of including African American Studies as a social studies option
16 that would satisfy both TOPS core curricula requirements and high school graduation
17 prerequisites receive a thorough evaluation.

18 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
19 urge and request the Board of Regents and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
20 Education to study and report collaboratively relative to the feasibility and advisability of
21 allowing a course in African American Studies to satisfy certain social studies requirements
22 relative to qualifications for Taylor Opportunity Program for Students awards and high
23 school graduation and to submit a written report of findings and conclusions, including any
24 recommendations for related legislation, to the House Committee on Education and the
25 Senate Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the 2022 Regular Session
26 of the Legislature.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a course in African American Studies should
28 ideally be a one-year course for one full unit of credit and should be designed for the purpose
29 of helping students to develop an understanding of the causes, character, and consequences

1 of the African American experience and its influence on the world, the United States, and
2 the African American community.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
4 chairman of the Board of Regents and the president of the State Board of Elementary and
5 Secondary Education.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HCR 28 Original

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Requests that the Bd. of Regents and the State Bd. of Elementary and Secondary Education study collaboratively the feasibility and advisability of allowing a course in African American Studies to satisfy certain social studies requirements relative to qualifications for Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) awards and high school graduation and submit a written report to the House and Senate education committees not later than 60 days prior to the 2022 R.S.