

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

1           WHEREAS, students have flexibility in choosing which two courses make up the  
2 remaining two required units; they are allowed to choose two units from the following:  
3 Western Civilization, European History, or AP European History; World Geography, AP  
4 Human Geography, or IB Geography; World History, AP World History, or World History  
5 IB; History of Religion; IB Economics, Economics, AP Macroeconomics, or AP  
6 Microeconomics; and

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

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

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

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

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

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a course in African American Studies should  
2 ideally be a one-year course for one full unit of credit and should be designed for the purpose  
3 of helping students to develop an understanding of the causes, character, and consequences  
4 of the African American experience and its influence on the world, the United States, and  
5 the African American community.

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

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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)]

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HCR 28 Engrossed

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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.