

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 28

BY REPRESENTATIVE GLOVER

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Board of Regents and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study and report collaboratively relative to 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 awards and high school graduation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Board of Regents and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to study and report collaboratively relative to 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 awards and high school graduation and to submit a written report of findings and conclusions, including any recommendations for related legislation, to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education not later than sixty days prior to the 2022 Regular Session of the Legislature.

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

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE