



103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

HB2490

Introduced 2/15/2023, by Rep. Kam Buckner

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/27-23.17 new

Amends the Courses of Study Article of the School Code. Provides that every public school shall include in its curriculum a unit of instruction studying the events of the civil rights movement in the United States from 1954 to 1968, the natural law and natural rights principles that the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., drew from and that informed his leadership of the civil rights movement, and the tactics and strategies of nonviolent resistance that he championed in response to the Jim Crow laws of that era. Provides that the curriculum shall include an additional unit of instruction studying other acts of discriminatory injustice, such as genocide, elsewhere around the globe. Provides that the State Board of Education shall prepare and make available to all school boards instructional materials that may be used as guidelines for development of the units of instruction. Allows a school board to determine the minimum amount of instructional time required. Effective immediately.

LRB103 25671 RJT 52020 b

STATE MANDATES
ACT MAY REQUIRE
REIMBURSEMENT

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by adding Section
5 27-23.17 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/27-23.17 new)

7 Sec. 27-23.17. Civil rights and discriminatory injustice
8 study.

9 (a) Every public elementary school and high school shall
10 include in its curriculum a unit of instruction studying the
11 events of the civil rights movement in the United States from
12 1954 to 1968, the natural law and natural rights principles
13 that the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., drew from and
14 that informed his leadership of the civil rights movement, and
15 the tactics and strategies of nonviolent resistance that he
16 championed in response to the Jim Crow laws of that era. This
17 period in American history is known as the Civil Rights Era
18 because, during this period, reform-minded Americans organized
19 to press for a rejection of the doctrine of "separate but
20 equal" and to repeal the Jim Crow laws of that era in parts of
21 the United States that embodied that doctrine. One of the
22 universal lessons of the Civil Rights Era is that hatred on the
23 basis of immutable characteristics, not just race or ethnicity

1 but also characteristics such as nationality, religious
2 belief, disability, or sex, can overtake any nation or
3 society, leading to profound injustice.

4 To reinforce that lesson, the curriculum shall include an
5 additional unit of instruction under this Section and in
6 addition to the unit of instruction under Section 27-20.3
7 studying other acts of discriminatory injustice, such as
8 genocide, elsewhere around the globe. This additional unit of
9 instruction shall include, but not be limited to, the Armenian
10 Genocide, the Holocaust, Chinese labor in Cuba, the Uyghurs in
11 China, and the Rohingya of Myanmar.

12 The studying of the material under this Section is a
13 reaffirmation of the commitment of the free peoples of this
14 State to reject bigotry, to champion equal protection under
15 the law as a foundational principle of our republic, and to act
16 in opposition to injustice wherever it may occur.

17 (b) The State Board of Education shall prepare and make
18 available to all school boards instructional materials that
19 may be used as guidelines for development of the units of
20 instruction under this Section.

21 (c) Each school board shall determine the minimum amount
22 of instructional time required under this Section.

23 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
24 becoming law.