



Rep. La Shawn K. Ford

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10100HB4954ham001

LRB101 18614 CMG 70677 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 4954

2 AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_. Amend House Bill 4954 on page 1, line  
3 5, after "24-2", by inserting ", 27-20.4,"; and

4 on page 4, immediately below line 14, by inserting the  
5 following:

6 "(105 ILCS 5/27-20.4) (from Ch. 122, par. 27-20.4)

7 Sec. 27-20.4. Black History study. Every public elementary  
8 school and high school shall include in its curriculum a unit  
9 of instruction studying the events of Black History, including  
10 the history of the African slave trade, slavery in America, and  
11 the vestiges of slavery in this country. These events shall  
12 include not only the contributions made by individual  
13 African-Americans in government and in the arts, humanities and  
14 sciences to the economic, cultural and political development of  
15 the United States and Africa, but also the socio-economic  
16 struggle which African-Americans experienced collectively in

1 striving to achieve fair and equal treatment under the laws of  
2 this nation. The studying of this material shall constitute an  
3 affirmation by students of their commitment to respect the  
4 dignity of all races and peoples and to forever eschew every  
5 form of discrimination in their lives and careers.

6 In addition, the teaching of Black History must also  
7 include all of the following areas:

8 (1) The study of the American civil rights renaissance,  
9 that period of time from 1954 to 1965 called the Movement.

10 (2) The study of the pre-enslavement history of Black  
11 people from 3,000 BCE to AD 1619, including instruction  
12 about ancient civilizations, kingdoms, kings, queens, and  
13 warriors; their contributions to medicine, literature,  
14 technology, architecture, and economics; and their  
15 achievements.

16 (3) The study of the reasons why Black people came to  
17 be enslaved.

18 (4) The promotion of a commonality of identity for all  
19 people to help with conflict resolution and to increase  
20 self-worth.

21 The State Superintendent of Education may prepare and make  
22 available to all school boards instructional materials,  
23 including those established by the Amistad Commission, which  
24 may be used as guidelines for development of a unit of  
25 instruction under this Section; provided, however, that each  
26 school board shall itself determine the minimum amount of

1 instruction time which shall qualify as a unit of instruction  
2 satisfying the requirements of this Section.

3 A school may meet the requirements of this Section through  
4 an online program or course.

5 (Source: P.A. 100-634, eff. 1-1-19.)".