

**First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

ENGROSSED

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted
on Second Reading in the House of Introduction*

LLS NO. 25-0360.01 Anna Petrini x5497

HOUSE BILL 25-1149

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

English,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Exum,

House Committees

Education
Appropriations

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING COMPREHENSIVE SOCIO-CULTURAL BLACK HISTORY**
102 **EDUCATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS, AND, IN CONNECTION**
103 **THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

The bill requires the state board of education to adopt standards related to Black historical and cultural studies (standards) on or before July 1, 2026. For school years beginning on or after July 1, 2028, local education providers shall incorporate the standards into courses for public elementary and secondary school students in the state.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

HOUSE
Amended 2nd Reading
April 15, 2025

The bill creates the Black historical and cultural studies advisory committee (committee) in the department of education (department) to recommend standards and related materials and to contribute technical assistance at the request of local education providers implementing the standards. The committee's recommendations must advance developmentally appropriate but comprehensive instruction that features factual accounts of the struggles and contributions of Black Americans in all fields of endeavor.

Using the committee's recommendations, the department shall create and maintain a resource bank of research-based, scholarly articles and promising program materials and curricula pertaining to Black historical and cultural studies.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 22-1-104.9 as
3 follows:

4 **22-1-104.9. Teaching of Black historical and cultural studies**

5 - **definitions.** (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT
6 OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

7 (a) "BLACK HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES" MEANS AN
8 INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAM OF ELEMENTARY THROUGH SECONDARY
9 ACADEMIC STUDY THAT:

10 (I) REPRESENTS BLACK HISTORICAL EXPERIENCES THROUGH
11 TRUTHFUL, INCLUSIVE, COMPLEX NARRATIVES THAT CONNECT WITH
12 CONTEMPORARY REALITIES; AND

13 (II) HIGHLIGHTS THE INNOVATIONS AND CULTURAL
14 CONTRIBUTIONS OF BLACK PEOPLE IN COLORADO, AMERICA, AND THE
15 WORLD.

16 (b) "LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER" MEANS:

17 (I) A SCHOOL DISTRICT;

18 (II) A CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT
19 PURSUANT TO PART 1 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF THIS TITLE 22;

1 (III) A CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY THE STATE CHARTER
2 SCHOOL INSTITUTE PURSUANT TO PART 5 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF THIS TITLE
3 22;

4 (IV) THE STATE CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE CREATED PURSUANT
5 TO SECTION 22-30.5-503; OR

6 (V) A BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES CREATED AND
7 OPERATING PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 5 OF THIS TITLE 22 THAT OPERATES ONE
8 OR MORE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

9 (2) EACH LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER SHALL INCORPORATE THE
10 STANDARDS ON BLACK HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES DEVELOPED
11 AND ADOPTED BY THE STATE BOARD PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-7-1005
12 (2.9) INTO COURSES FOR ELEMENTARY THROUGH SECONDARY EDUCATION
13 STUDENTS, FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE INITIAL
14 ADOPTION OF THE STANDARDS PURSUANT TO THE SCHEDULE DESCRIBED
15 IN SECTION 22-7-1005 (6) AND EVERY SCHOOL YEAR THEREAFTER.

16 (3) THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL IMPLEMENT THE
17 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BLACK HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES
18 ADVISORY COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED IN SECTION 22-2-127.4 WHEN
19 PERFORMING ITS SIX-YEAR REVIEW OF THE STATE'S EDUCATION
20 STANDARDS PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-7-1005 (6).

21 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-7-1005, **add** (2.9)
22 as follows:

23 **22-7-1005. Preschool through elementary and secondary**
24 **education - aligned standards - adoption - revisions.**

25 (2.9) (a) PURSUANT TO THE STANDARDS SCHEDULE DESCRIBED IN
26 SUBSECTION (6) OF THIS SECTION, THE STATE BOARD SHALL ADOPT
27 STANDARDS THAT IDENTIFY THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS THAT

1 ELEMENTARY THROUGH SECONDARY EDUCATION STUDENTS SHOULD
2 ACQUIRE RELATED TO BLACK HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES, AS
3 DEFINED IN SECTION 22-1-104.9.

4 (b) IN CREATING THE STANDARDS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION
5 (2.9)(a) OF THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL
6 IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BLACK HISTORICAL AND
7 CULTURAL STUDIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED IN SECTION
8 22-2-127.4.

9 SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, add 22-2-127.4 as
10 follows:

11 22-2-127.4. Black historical and cultural studies - advisory
12 committee - resource bank - technical assistance - definitions. (1) AS
13 USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

14 (a) "BLACK HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES" MEANS AN
15 INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAM OF ELEMENTARY THROUGH SECONDARY
16 ACADEMIC STUDY THAT:

17 (I) REPRESENTS BLACK HISTORICAL EXPERIENCES THROUGH
18 TRUTHFUL, INCLUSIVE, COMPLEX NARRATIVES THAT CONNECT WITH
19 CONTEMPORARY REALITIES; AND

20 (II) HIGHLIGHTS THE INNOVATIONS AND CULTURAL
21 CONTRIBUTIONS OF BLACK PEOPLE IN COLORADO, AMERICA, AND THE
22 WORLD.

23 (b) "COMMITTEE" MEANS THE BLACK HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL
24 STUDIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE CREATED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)
25 OF THIS SECTION.

26 (c) "LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER" MEANS:

27 (I) A SCHOOL DISTRICT;

1 (II) A CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT
2 PURSUANT TO PART 1 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF THIS TITLE 22;

3 (III) A CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY THE STATE CHARTER
4 SCHOOL INSTITUTE PURSUANT TO PART 5 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF THIS TITLE
5 22;

6 (IV) THE STATE CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE CREATED PURSUANT
7 TO SECTION 22-30.5-503; OR

8 (V) A BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES CREATED AND
9 OPERATING PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 5 OF THIS TITLE 22 THAT OPERATES ONE
10 OR MORE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

11 (2) THE BLACK HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES ADVISORY
12 COMMITTEE IS CREATED IN THE DEPARTMENT. THE PURPOSE OF THE
13 COMMITTEE IS TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE STATE BOARD AND
14 DEPARTMENT TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE REGULAR
15 SIX-YEAR REVIEW OF THE STATE'S EDUCATION STANDARDS AND PROGRAMS
16 PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-7-1005 AND TO RECOMMEND RESOURCES AND
17 PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (6) OF THIS
18 SECTION.

19 (3)(a) THE BLACK HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES ADVISORY
20 COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF SEVENTEEN MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE
21 DESIGNATED APPOINTING OFFICIALS AS FOLLOWS:

22 (I) THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT, THROUGH THE OFFICE OF
23 BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS, THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF THE
24 COMMITTEE:

25 (A) ONE MEMBER WHO IS AN ACADEMIC EXPERT IN BLACK
26 HISTORY AND CULTURE;

27 (B) ONE MEMBER WHO IS A HISTORIAN WITH EXPERTISE IN THE

- 1 HISTORY OF BLACK COLORADANS;
- 2 (C) ONE MEMBER WHO IS A TEACHER IN A RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
3 OR A SMALL RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 22-7-1211,
4 AND HOLDS AN INITIAL OR PROFESSIONAL TEACHER'S LICENSE PURSUANT
5 TO ARTICLE 60.5 OF THIS TITLE 22;
- 6 (D) ONE MEMBER WHO IS A TEACHER IN A SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT
7 IS NOT A RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OR A SMALL RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT,
8 AS DEFINED IN SECTION 22-7-1211, AND HOLDS AN INITIAL OR
9 PROFESSIONAL TEACHER'S LICENSE PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 60.5 OF THIS
10 TITLE 22;
- 11 (E) ONE MEMBER WHO IS A LIBRARIAN SPECIALIZING IN BLACK
12 ARTS AND CULTURE AND WHO IS A MEMBER OF A PROFESSIONAL
13 ASSOCIATION OF LIBRARIANS;
- 14 (F) TWO MEMBERS WHO ARE CURRICULUM SPECIALISTS, ONE OF
15 WHOM SPECIALIZES IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION, ONE OF WHOM
16 SPECIALIZES IN SECONDARY EDUCATION, AND BOTH OF WHOM ARE
17 MEMBERS OF A PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION;
- 18 (G) ONE MEMBER WHO IS A PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A
19 STUDENT WHO ATTENDS A PUBLIC SCHOOL AND IS A MEMBER OF A PARENT
20 ORGANIZATION;
- 21 (H) TWO MEMBERS WHO EACH REPRESENT A NONPROFIT
22 ORGANIZATION SPECIALIZING IN CIVIL RIGHTS AND RACIAL JUSTICE WITH
23 AN EMPHASIS ON COMPREHENSIVE BLACK HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL
24 EDUCATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS;
- 25 (I) ONE MEMBER WHO REPRESENTS A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
26 SPECIALIZING IN BLACK ARTS AND CULTURE; AND
- 27 (J) TWO MEMBERS FROM THE BLACK COMMUNITY WHOSE

1 LEADERSHIP IN LITERARY, ARTISTIC, MILITARY, BUSINESS, SCIENCE,
2 TECHNOLOGY, MEDIA, OR CIVIC LIFE CONTRIBUTES VALUABLE LIVED
3 EXPERIENCE TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE;

4 (II) THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SHALL
5 APPOINT ONE MEMBER;

6 (III) THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE SHALL APPOINT ONE MEMBER;
7 AND

8 (IV) THE COMMISSIONER SHALL APPOINT TWO MEMBERS FROM THE
9 DEPARTMENT, WHO ARE NONVOTING MEMBERS.

10 (b) THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE MUST REFLECT A DEEP
11 COLLECTIVE UNDERSTANDING OF BLACK HISTORY AND CULTURE, WITH
12 DEMONSTRATED EXPERTISE IN BLACK HISTORY, SOCIAL EQUITY, AND CIVIL
13 RIGHTS. A MAJORITY OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS MUST HAVE EITHER
14 CLASSROOM EXPERIENCE OR EXPERIENCE IN DEVELOPING EDUCATION
15 CONTENT STANDARDS.

16 (c) THE APPOINTING OFFICIALS SHALL MAKE THE INITIAL
17 APPOINTMENTS TO THE COMMITTEE NO LATER THAN AUGUST 15, 2025.

18 (d) THE TERM OF APPOINTMENT IS FOUR YEARS. THE APPOINTING
19 OFFICIALS SHALL FILL ANY VACANCIES ON THE COMMITTEE FOR THE
20 REMAINDER OF ANY UNEXPIRED TERM.

21 (4) MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE SERVE WITHOUT COMPENSATION
22 AND WITHOUT REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES.

23 (5) (a) THE COMMITTEE SHALL ELECT A CHAIR FROM AMONG THE
24 COMMITTEE'S MEMBERS TO SERVE FOR A TERM NOT TO EXCEED TWO
25 YEARS, AS DETERMINED BY THE COMMITTEE.

26 (b) THE COMMITTEE SHALL MEET AT LEAST ONCE IN 2025, AND AT
27 LEAST TWICE ANNUALLY EACH YEAR THEREAFTER. THE CHAIR MAY CALL

1 SUCH ADDITIONAL MEETINGS AS ARE NECESSARY FOR THE COMMITTEE TO
2 COMPLETE ITS DUTIES.

3 (6) THE COMMITTEE SHALL:

4 (a) MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE STATE BOARD AND THE
5 DEPARTMENT REGARDING STANDARDS THAT IDENTIFY THE KNOWLEDGE
6 AND SKILLS THAT ELEMENTARY THROUGH SECONDARY EDUCATION
7 STUDENTS SHOULD ACQUIRE RELATED TO BLACK HISTORICAL AND
8 CULTURAL STUDIES PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-7-1005 (2.9) AND DEVELOP
9 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE STATE BOARD TO IMPLEMENT DURING ITS
10 SIX-YEAR REVIEW OF THE STATE'S EDUCATION STANDARDS;

11 (b) IDENTIFY AND RECOMMEND MATERIALS AND RESOURCES FOR
12 INCLUSION IN THE RESOURCE BANK CREATED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION
13 (8) OF THIS SECTION; AND

14 (c) AT THE REQUEST OF A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER,
15 COLLABORATE WITH THE DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL
16 ASSISTANCE TO THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER IN DESIGNING
17 AGE-APPROPRIATE CURRICULA PERTAINING TO BLACK HISTORICAL AND
18 CULTURAL STUDIES.

19 (7)(a) IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION
20 (6)(a) OF THIS SECTION, THE COMMITTEE SHALL COORDINATE WITH THE
21 HISTORY, CULTURE, SOCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS, AND CIVIL GOVERNMENT IN
22 EDUCATION COMMISSION ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-1-104.3
23 AND MAY CONSIDER THE FINDINGS OF THE BLACK COLORADAN RACIAL
24 EQUITY STUDY PURSUANT TO SECTION 2-2-2307 (1)(d).

25 (b) THE RECOMMENDATIONS MUST ADVANCE DEVELOPMENTALLY
26 APPROPRIATE BUT COMPREHENSIVE INSTRUCTION THAT:

27 (I) INCLUDES A DIVERSITY OF OPINIONS AND NARRATIVES WITHIN

1 THE BLACK EXPERIENCE;
2 (II) FEATURES FACTUAL ACCOUNTS OF THE STRUGGLES AND
3 CONTRIBUTIONS OF BLACK AMERICANS IN ALL FIELDS OF ENDEAVOR;
4 (III) REFLECTS BLACK AGENCY AND RESISTANCE AGAINST
5 OPPRESSION;
6 (IV) FOSTERS CROSS-CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING AND EMPOWERS
7 ALL STUDENTS;
8 (V) FEATURES A DIVERSE RANGE OF BLACK ACHIEVEMENTS IN
9 ARTISTIC, SCIENTIFIC, CIVIC, AND BUSINESS ENDEAVORS; AND
10 (VI) INCLUDES THE STUDY OF EARLY AFRICAN CIVILIZATIONS, THE
11 GLOBAL MIGRATIONS OF AFRICAN PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE AFRICAN
12 DIASPORA, THE SLAVE TRADE AND ENSLAVEMENT IN AMERICA,
13 ABOLITION, RECONSTRUCTION, THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT, AS WELL AS
14 BLACK HISTORY IN COLORADO AND LOCAL BLACK HISTORIES WITHIN THE
15 STATE.

16 (c) IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION
17 (6)(a) OF THIS SECTION, THE COMMITTEE SHALL:

18 (I) EVALUATE THE MOST RECENT REVISIONS TO THE STATE'S
19 HISTORY AND CIVICS STANDARDS THAT REFLECT THE RECOMMENDATIONS
20 PROVIDED BY THE HISTORY, CULTURE, SOCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS, AND CIVIL
21 GOVERNMENT IN EDUCATION COMMISSION ESTABLISHED IN SECTION
22 22-1-104.3; AND

23 (II) INCLUDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ANY UPDATES NECESSARY
24 TO MAKE THE STATE'S HISTORY AND CIVICS STANDARDS CURRENT,
25 ACCURATE, COMPREHENSIVE, AND ALIGNED WITH THE COMMITTEE'S
26 OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS.

27 (8) (a) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CREATE AND MAINTAIN A

1 RESOURCE BANK OF EXISTING RESEARCH-BASED SCHOLARLY ARTICLES
2 AND PROMISING PROGRAM MATERIALS AND CURRICULA PERTAINING TO
3 BLACK HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES. THE MATERIALS AND
4 CURRICULA MAY BE USED IN ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN
5 THE STATE. AT A MINIMUM, THE RESOURCE BANK MUST INCLUDE THE
6 MATERIALS AND RESOURCES THAT THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS
7 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (6)(b) OF THIS SECTION. TO THE EXTENT
8 POSSIBLE, THE RESOURCE BANK MATERIALS, SCHOLARLY ARTICLES, AND
9 CURRICULA MUST BE YOUTH-FRIENDLY, CULTURALLY SENSITIVE, AND
10 AVAILABLE IN BOTH ENGLISH AND SPANISH.

11 (b) ON AND AFTER JULY 1, 2026, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MAKE
12 THE MATERIALS IN THE RESOURCE BANK AVAILABLE WITHOUT CHARGE TO
13 LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS, PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS, PARENTS OR
14 GUARDIANS OF YOUTH, AND STUDENTS. A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER IS
15 NOT REQUIRED TO ADOPT OR IMPLEMENT ANY MATERIAL OR CURRICULA
16 FROM THE RESOURCE BANK. AT THE REQUEST OF A LOCAL EDUCATION
17 PROVIDER AND SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE RESOURCES, THE DEPARTMENT
18 SHALL PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE LOCAL EDUCATION
19 PROVIDER IN DESIGNING AGE-APPROPRIATE CURRICULA PERTAINING TO
20 BLACK HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES.

21 (c) LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO REPORT
22 TO THE DEPARTMENT ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE RESOURCE BANK
23 MATERIALS AND CURRICULA AND TO RECOMMEND CHANGES TO IMPROVE
24 THE MATERIALS AND CURRICULA. THE DEPARTMENT IS ENCOURAGED TO
25 UPDATE THE RESOURCE BANK MATERIALS AND CURRICULA BASED ON
26 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS, PROFESSIONAL
27 EDUCATORS, PARENTS OR GUARDIANS OF YOUTH, AND STUDENTS.

1 (9) THE DEPARTMENT MAY SEEK, ACCEPT, AND EXPEND GIFTS,
2 GRANTS, OR DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE OR PUBLIC SOURCES FOR THE
3 PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION.

4 **SECTION 4. Appropriation.** For the 2025-26 state fiscal year,
5 \$19,225 appropriated to the department of education for use by student
6 learning. This appropriation is from the general fund and is based on an
7 assumption that the division will require an additional 0.2 FTE. To
8 implement this act, the division may use this appropriation for content
9 specialists.

10 **SECTION 5. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
11 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
12 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
13 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
14 institutions.