

First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 25-0360.01 Anna Petrini x5497

HOUSE BILL 25-1149

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

English,

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Exum,

House Committees
Education

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING COMPREHENSIVE SOCIO-CULTURAL BLACK HISTORY
102 EDUCATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

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.

The bill creates the Black historical and cultural studies advisory

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.

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) FOR SCHOOL YEARS BEGINNING ON OR AFTER JULY 1, 2028,
10 EACH LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER SHALL INCORPORATE THE STANDARDS
11 ON BLACK HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES DEVELOPED AND ADOPTED
12 BY THE STATE BOARD PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-7-1005 (2.9) INTO
13 COURSES FOR ELEMENTARY THROUGH SECONDARY EDUCATION STUDENTS.

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

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

21 **22-7-1005. Preschool through elementary and secondary**
22 **education - aligned standards - adoption - revisions.** (2.9) (a) ON OR
23 BEFORE JULY 1, 2026, THE STATE BOARD SHALL ADOPT STANDARDS THAT
24 IDENTIFY THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS THAT ELEMENTARY THROUGH
25 SECONDARY EDUCATION STUDENTS SHOULD ACQUIRE RELATED TO BLACK
26 HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 22-1-104.9.

27 (b) IN CREATING THE STANDARDS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION

1 (2.9)(a) OF THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL USE THE
2 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BLACK HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES
3 ADVISORY COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED IN SECTION 22-2-127.4.

4 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 22-2-127.4 as
5 follows:

6 **22-2-127.4. Black historical and cultural studies - advisory**
7 **committee - resource bank - technical assistance - definitions.** (1) AS
8 USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

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

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

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

18 (b) "COMMITTEE" MEANS THE BLACK HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL
19 STUDIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE CREATED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)
20 OF THIS SECTION.

21 (c) "LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER" MEANS:

22 (I) A SCHOOL DISTRICT;

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

25 (III) A CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY THE STATE CHARTER
26 SCHOOL INSTITUTE PURSUANT TO PART 5 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF THIS TITLE
27 22;

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

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

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

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

17 (I) THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT, THROUGH THE OFFICE OF
18 BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS, THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF THE
19 COMMITTEE:

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

22 (B) ONE MEMBER WHO IS A HISTORIAN WITH EXPERTISE IN THE
23 HISTORY OF BLACK COLORADANS;

24 (C) ONE MEMBER WHO IS A TEACHER IN A RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
25 OR A SMALL RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 22-7-1211,
26 AND HOLDS AN INITIAL OR PROFESSIONAL TEACHER'S LICENSE PURSUANT
27 TO ARTICLE 60.5 OF THIS TITLE 22;

1 (D) ONE MEMBER WHO IS A TEACHER IN A SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT
2 IS NOT A RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OR A SMALL RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT,
3 AS DEFINED IN SECTION 22-7-1211, AND HOLDS AN INITIAL OR
4 PROFESSIONAL TEACHER'S LICENSE PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 60.5 OF THIS
5 TITLE 22;

6 (E) ONE MEMBER WHO IS A LIBRARIAN SPECIALIZING IN BLACK
7 ARTS AND CULTURE AND WHO IS A MEMBER OF A PROFESSIONAL
8 ASSOCIATION OF LIBRARIANS;

9 (F) TWO MEMBERS WHO ARE CURRICULUM SPECIALISTS, ONE OF
10 WHOM SPECIALIZES IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION, ONE OF WHOM
11 SPECIALIZES IN SECONDARY EDUCATION, AND BOTH OF WHOM ARE
12 MEMBERS OF A PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION;

13 (G) ONE MEMBER WHO IS A PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A
14 STUDENT WHO ATTENDS A PUBLIC SCHOOL AND IS A MEMBER OF A PARENT
15 ORGANIZATION;

16 (H) TWO MEMBERS WHO EACH REPRESENT A NONPROFIT
17 ORGANIZATION SPECIALIZING IN CIVIL RIGHTS AND RACIAL JUSTICE WITH
18 AN EMPHASIS ON COMPREHENSIVE BLACK HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL
19 EDUCATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS;

20 (I) ONE MEMBER WHO REPRESENTS A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
21 SPECIALIZING IN BLACK ARTS AND CULTURE; AND

22 (J) TWO MEMBERS FROM THE BLACK COMMUNITY WHOSE
23 LEADERSHIP IN LITERARY, ARTISTIC, MILITARY, BUSINESS, SCIENCE,
24 TECHNOLOGY, MEDIA, OR CIVIC LIFE CONTRIBUTES VALUABLE LIVED
25 EXPERIENCE TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE;

26 (II) THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SHALL
27 APPOINT ONE MEMBER;

1 (III) THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE SHALL APPOINT ONE MEMBER;

2 AND

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

5 (b) THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE MUST REFLECT A DEEP
6 COLLECTIVE UNDERSTANDING OF BLACK HISTORY AND CULTURE, WITH
7 DEMONSTRATED EXPERTISE IN BLACK HISTORY, SOCIAL EQUITY, AND CIVIL
8 RIGHTS. A MAJORITY OF THE COMMISSION MEMBERS MUST HAVE EITHER
9 CLASSROOM EXPERIENCE OR EXPERIENCE IN DEVELOPING EDUCATION
10 CONTENT STANDARDS.

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

13 (d) THE TERM OF APPOINTMENT IS FOUR YEARS. THE APPOINTING
14 OFFICIALS SHALL FILL ANY VACANCIES ON THE COMMISSION FOR THE
15 REMAINDER OF ANY UNEXPIRED TERM.

16 (4) MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE SERVE WITHOUT COMPENSATION
17 AND WITHOUT REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES.

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

21 (b) THE COMMITTEE SHALL MEET AT LEAST ONCE IN 2025, AND AT
22 LEAST TWICE ANNUALLY EACH YEAR THEREAFTER. THE CHAIR MAY CALL
23 SUCH ADDITIONAL MEETINGS AS ARE NECESSARY FOR THE COMMITTEE TO
24 COMPLETE ITS DUTIES.

25 (6) THE COMMITTEE SHALL:

26 (a) MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE STATE BOARD AND THE
27 DEPARTMENT REGARDING STANDARDS THAT IDENTIFY THE KNOWLEDGE

1 AND SKILLS THAT ELEMENTARY THROUGH SECONDARY EDUCATION
2 STUDENTS SHOULD ACQUIRE RELATED TO BLACK HISTORICAL AND
3 CULTURAL STUDIES PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-7-1005 (2.9) AND DEVELOP
4 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE STATE BOARD TO CONSIDER DURING ITS
5 SIX-YEAR REVIEW OF THE STATE'S EDUCATION STANDARDS;

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

9 (c) AT THE REQUEST OF A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER,
10 COLLABORATE WITH THE DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL
11 ASSISTANCE TO THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER IN DESIGNING
12 AGE-APPROPRIATE CURRICULA PERTAINING TO BLACK HISTORICAL AND
13 CULTURAL STUDIES.

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

20 (b) THE RECOMMENDATIONS MUST ADVANCE DEVELOPMENTALLY
21 APPROPRIATE BUT COMPREHENSIVE INSTRUCTION THAT:

22 (I) INCLUDES A DIVERSITY OF OPINIONS AND NARRATIVES WITHIN
23 THE BLACK EXPERIENCE;

24 (II) FEATURES FACTUAL ACCOUNTS OF THE STRUGGLES AND
25 CONTRIBUTIONS OF BLACK AMERICANS IN ALL FIELDS OF ENDEAVOR;

26 (III) REFLECTS BLACK AGENCY AND RESISTANCE AGAINST
27 OPPRESSION;

1 (IV) FOSTERS CROSS-CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING AND EMPOWERS
2 ALL STUDENTS;

3 (V) FEATURES A DIVERSE RANGE OF BLACK ACHIEVEMENTS IN
4 ARTISTIC, SCIENTIFIC, CIVIC, AND BUSINESS ENDEAVORS; AND

5 (VI) INCLUDES THE STUDY OF EARLY AFRICAN CIVILIZATIONS, THE
6 GLOBAL MIGRATIONS OF AFRICAN PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE AFRICAN
7 DIASPORA, THE SLAVE TRADE AND ENSLAVEMENT IN AMERICA,
8 ABOLITION, RECONSTRUCTION, THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT, AS WELL AS
9 BLACK HISTORY IN COLORADO AND LOCAL BLACK HISTORIES WITHIN THE
10 STATE.

11 (8) (a) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CREATE AND MAINTAIN A
12 RESOURCE BANK OF EXISTING RESEARCH-BASED SCHOLARLY ARTICLES
13 AND PROMISING PROGRAM MATERIALS AND CURRICULA PERTAINING TO
14 BLACK HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES. THE MATERIALS AND
15 CURRICULA MAY BE USED IN ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN
16 THE STATE. AT A MINIMUM, THE RESOURCE BANK MUST INCLUDE THE
17 MATERIALS AND RESOURCES THAT THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS
18 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (6)(b) OF THIS SECTION. TO THE EXTENT
19 POSSIBLE, THE RESOURCE BANK MATERIALS, SCHOLARLY ARTICLES, AND
20 CURRICULA MUST BE YOUTH-FRIENDLY, CULTURALLY SENSITIVE, AND
21 AVAILABLE IN BOTH ENGLISH AND SPANISH.

22 (b) ON AND AFTER JULY 1, 2026, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MAKE
23 THE MATERIALS IN THE RESOURCE BANK AVAILABLE WITHOUT CHARGE TO
24 LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS, PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS, PARENTS OR
25 GUARDIANS OF YOUTH, AND STUDENTS. A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER IS
26 NOT REQUIRED TO ADOPT OR IMPLEMENT ANY MATERIAL OR CURRICULA
27 FROM THE RESOURCE BANK. AT THE REQUEST OF A LOCAL EDUCATION

1 PROVIDER AND SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE RESOURCES, THE DEPARTMENT
2 SHALL PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE LOCAL EDUCATION
3 PROVIDER IN DESIGNING AGE-APPROPRIATE CURRICULA PERTAINING TO
4 BLACK HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES.

5 (c) LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO REPORT
6 TO THE DEPARTMENT ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE RESOURCE BANK
7 MATERIALS AND CURRICULA AND TO RECOMMEND CHANGES TO IMPROVE
8 THE MATERIALS AND CURRICULA. THE DEPARTMENT IS ENCOURAGED TO
9 UPDATE THE RESOURCE BANK MATERIALS AND CURRICULA BASED ON
10 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS, PROFESSIONAL
11 EDUCATORS, PARENTS OR GUARDIANS OF YOUTH, AND STUDENTS.

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

15 **SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
16 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
17 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
18 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
19 institutions.