

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2023

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HOUSE BILL 686
Committee Substitute Favorable 6/21/23

Short Title: Civil Rights Education.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 19, 2023

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE CIVIL RIGHTS EDUCATION TO EVERY
3 STUDENT IN THE STATE.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 115C-81.45 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

6 "(e) Civil Rights Education. – A unit on civil rights shall be included as part of both the
7 middle school civic and citizenship education standard course of study and high school course in
8 Founding Principles of the United States of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy. The
9 unit shall include at least the following topics:

10 (1) The civil rights movement that occurred in the United States from 1954
11 through 1968, including:

12 a. The natural law and natural rights principles that informed the
13 leadership of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

14 b. The tactics and strategies of nonviolent resistance that Dr. King
15 championed in response to the Jim Crow laws of that era.

16 c. The repeal of the Jim Crow laws of that era and the passage of civil
17 rights legislation in the United States.

18 (2) The philosophy that hatred on the basis of immutable characteristics leads to
19 profound injustice.

20 (3) Instruction on other acts of discriminatory injustice elsewhere around the
21 globe to reinforce the lesson that hatred on the basis of immutable
22 characteristics can overtake any society."

23 **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
24 Public Instruction the sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) in nonrecurring
25 funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal year for the implementation of this act.

26 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2023, and applies to courses taught
27 beginning with the 2024-2025 school year.



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