

Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE BILL NO. 436

BY REPRESENTATIVE HARRISON

CURRICULA: Requires instruction on the Founding Principles of the U.S. to be integrated into the high school American history and civics courses

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 17:264 and 3996(B)(30), relative to required instruction in public schools; to  
3 require certain public school governing authorities to provide instruction on certain  
4 aspects of American history; to provide for guidelines pertaining to such instruction;  
5 and to provide for related matters.

6 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

7 Section 1. This Act shall be known as the "Founding Principles Act".

8 Section 2. R.S. 17:264 and 3996(B)(30) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

9 §264. The Founding Principles of the United States of America; required instruction

10 A. The governing authority of each public school which offers courses in  
11 American history and civics as prerequisites to graduation shall integrate into such  
12 courses instruction regarding the Founding Principles of the United States of  
13 America.

14 B. Such instruction shall include but need not be limited to providing  
15 students with information on the following:

- 16 (1) The Creator-endowed unalienable rights of the people.
- 17 (2) Structure of government, separation of powers with checks and balances.
- 18 (3) Frequent and free elections in a representative government.
- 19 (4) Rule of law.
- 20 (5) Equal justice under the law.



- (3) Frequent and free elections in a representative government.
- (4) Rule of law.
- (5) Equal justice under the law.
- (6) Private property rights.
- (7) Federalism.
- (8) Due process.
- (9) Individual rights as set forth in the Bill of Rights.
- (10) Individual responsibility.

Proposed law shall be known as the "Founding Principles Act".

(Adds R.S. 17:264 and 3996(B)(30))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill.

- 1. Adds civics, as an alternative to American history, as a course into which proposed law instruction shall be integrated.