

Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE BILL NO. 436

BY REPRESENTATIVES HARRISON, ADAMS, BERTHELOT, STUART BISHOP, BROADWATER, BROWN, BURFORD, TIM BURNS, CARMODY, COX, GISCLAIR, HARRIS, HAVARD, HENRY, HENSGENS, HILL, HODGES, HOFFMANN, HUVAL, JONES, KLECKLEY, MACK, PUGH, PYLANT, SCHEXNAYDER, SEABAUGH, SIMON, AND WHITNEY

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 that 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 and separation of powers with checks and  
18 balances.

1                   (3) Frequent and free elections in a representative government.

2                   (4) Rule of law.

3                   (5) Equal justice under the law.

4                   (6) Private property rights.

5                   (7) Federalism.

6                   (8) Due process.

7                   (9) Individual rights as set forth in the Bill of Rights.

8                   (10) Individual responsibility.

9   \*       \*       \*

10           §3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements

11   \*       \*       \*

12                   B. Notwithstanding any state law, rule, or regulation to the contrary and  
13                   except as may be otherwise specifically provided for in an approved charter, a  
14                   charter school established and operated in accordance with the provisions of this  
15                   Chapter and its approved charter and the school's officers and employees shall be  
16                   exempt from all statutory mandates or other statutory requirements that are  
17                   applicable to public schools and to public school officers and employees except for  
18                   the following laws otherwise applicable to public schools with the same grades:

19   \*       \*       \*

20                   (30) Instruction on the Founding Principles of the United States of America  
21                   in American history and civics courses, R.S. 17:264.

22   \*       \*       \*

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DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Harrison

HB No. 436

**Abstract:** Requires instruction on the nation's "Founding Principles" to be integrated into the existing required American history and civics courses in public schools.

Proposed law requires the governing authority of each public school offering American history and civics as prerequisites to graduation to integrate into such courses instruction on

the Founding Principles of the U.S.A. Such instruction shall include but need not be limited to providing students with information on the following:

- (1) The Creator-endowed unalienable rights of the people.
- (2) Structure of government, separation of powers with checks and balances.
- (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.