

House File 2204 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2204

BY GAINES

A BILL FOR

1 An Act making completion of cultural competency coursework
2 mandatory for students enrolled in the ninth grade.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.11, subsection 5, paragraph b, Code
2 2018, is amended to read as follows:

3 b. Five units of the social studies including instruction
4 in voting statutes and procedures, voter registration
5 requirements, the use of paper ballots and voting systems in
6 the election process, and the method of acquiring and casting
7 an absentee ballot.

8 (1) All students shall complete a minimum of one-half unit
9 of United States government and one unit of United States
10 history. The one-half unit of United States government shall
11 include the voting procedure as described in this lettered
12 paragraph and [section 280.9A](#). The government instruction shall
13 also include a study of the Constitution of the United States
14 and the Bill of Rights contained in the Constitution and an
15 assessment of a student's knowledge of the Constitution and the
16 Bill of Rights.

17 (2) All students enrolled in grade nine shall complete the
18 equivalent of one-half unit of coursework relating to cultural
19 competency. For purposes of this subparagraph, "cultural
20 competency" means awareness and understanding of the values,
21 lifestyles, history, and contributions of various identifiable
22 cultural groups in society; and recognizing and dealing with
23 dehumanizing biases such as sexism, racism, prejudice, and
24 discrimination and raising awareness of the impact that such
25 biases have on interpersonal relations.

26 Sec. 2. STATE MANDATE FUNDING SPECIFIED. In accordance
27 with section 25B.2, subsection 3, the state cost of requiring
28 compliance with any state mandate included in this Act shall
29 be paid by a school district from state school foundation aid
30 received by the school district under section 257.16. This
31 specification of the payment of the state cost shall be deemed
32 to meet all of the state funding-related requirements of
33 section 25B.2, subsection 3, and no additional state funding
34 shall be necessary for the full implementation of this Act
35 by and enforcement of this Act against all affected school

1 districts.

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EXPLANATION

3 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
4 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

5 This bill modifies the educational program requirements
6 for each school district and accredited nonpublic school by
7 requiring, under the five units of social studies that each
8 school district and school must offer and teach, that all
9 students in ninth grade complete the equivalent of one-half
10 unit of coursework relating to cultural competency, which is
11 defined in the bill.

12 The bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code
13 section 25B.3. The bill requires that the state cost of
14 any state mandate included in the bill be paid by a school
15 district from state school foundation aid received by the
16 school district under Code section 257.16. The specification
17 is deemed to constitute state compliance with any state mandate
18 funding-related requirements of Code section 25B.2. The
19 inclusion of this specification is intended to reinstate the
20 requirement of political subdivisions to comply with any state
21 mandates included in the bill.