

House Study Bill 542 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON HIGHER
EDUCATION BILL BY CHAIRPERSON
COLLINS)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act prohibiting courses and content relating to diversity,
2 equity, inclusion, and critical race theory in general
3 education requirements and core curricula at regents
4 institutions.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act shall be known and may be
2 cited as the "Stop Woke Act".

3 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. **262.100 Standards for undergraduate**
4 **general education courses.**

5 1. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise
6 requires:

7 a. *"Diversity, equity, inclusion, and critical race*
8 *theory-related content"* means content that does one or more of
9 the following:

10 (1) Promotes the idea that racially neutral or colorblind
11 laws, policies, or institutions perpetuate oppression; injustice;
12 race-based privilege, including white supremacy or white
13 privilege; or inequity by failing to actively differentiate on
14 the basis of race, sex, or gender.

15 (2) Promotes the differential treatment of any individual or
16 groups of individuals based on race or ethnicity in contemporary
17 American society.

18 (3) Promotes the idea that a student is biased on account of
19 the student's race or sex.

20 (4) Relates any of the following topics to contemporary
21 American society: critical theory, whiteness, systemic racism,
22 institutional racism, antiracism, microaggressions, systemic
23 bias, implicit bias, unconscious bias, intersectionality,
24 gender identity, social justice, cultural competence, allyship,
25 race-based reparations, race-based privilege, race-based or
26 gender-based diversity, race-based or gender-based equity, or
27 race-based or gender-based inclusion.

28 b. *"Diversity, equity, inclusion, and critical race*
29 *theory-related course or course requirements"* means any
30 course for which the course description, course overview,
31 course objectives, proposed student learning outcomes, written
32 examinations, written or oral assignments for which the student
33 will receive a grade, or other course requirements include
34 diversity, equity, inclusion, and critical race theory-related
35 content, or any other course requirement that includes such

1 content.

2 2. The state board of regents shall establish a policy
3 that prohibits diversity, equity, inclusion, and critical race
4 theory-related courses or course requirements from being included
5 in any undergraduate general education requirement or core
6 curriculum at institutions of higher education governed by the
7 board.

8 Sec. 3. REVIEW OF UNDERGRADUATE GENERAL EDUCATION
9 REQUIREMENTS AND CORE CURRICULA. No later than December 31,
10 2026, the board of regents shall conduct a review of all
11 undergraduate general education requirements and core curricula
12 at institutions of higher education governed by the board
13 and direct the institutions to remove any required courses or
14 course requirements that include diversity, equity, inclusion,
15 and critical race theory-related content from the undergraduate
16 general education requirements and core curricula.

17 Sec. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF POLICIES — DATE. The board of
18 regents shall establish all policies required by this Act no
19 later than December 31, 2026.

20 EXPLANATION

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

23 This bill requires the state board of regents (board) to
24 establish a policy that prohibits diversity, equity, inclusion,
25 and critical race theory-related courses or course requirements,
26 as defined in the bill, from being included in any undergraduate
27 general education requirement or core curriculum at institutions
28 of higher education governed by the board (institutions).

29 The bill requires the board to establish all policies required
30 by the bill no later than December 31, 2026.

31 The bill requires the board, no later than December 31,
32 2026, to conduct a review of all undergraduate general education
33 requirements and core curricula at institutions and direct
34 the institutions to remove any required courses or course
35 requirements that include diversity, equity, inclusion, and

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- 1 critical race theory-related content from the undergraduate
- 2 general education requirements and core curricula.

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