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**HOUSE BILL 2282**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2024 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Morgan, Reeves, Berg, Street, Donaghy, Taylor, Davis, Alvarado, Ramel, Peterson, Doglio, Ormsby, Riccelli, Callan, Pollet, Simmons, and Macri

Read first time 01/10/24. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to identifying African American studies curricula  
2 for students in grades seven through 12; creating new sections; and  
3 providing an expiration date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that the  
6 contributions, achievements, culture, characteristics, and issues of  
7 people of African descent is American history and that African  
8 American studies is an interdisciplinary academic field that  
9 encompasses the history, politics, culture, contributions, and  
10 achievements of people of African descent in the United States and  
11 throughout the African diaspora. The legislature acknowledges that  
12 this field of study expands the educational lens to include  
13 multicultural approaches to learning as well as new and enhanced  
14 historical narratives. The legislature recognizes that seeing  
15 themselves represented through a multidimensional and asset-based  
16 educational program has a positive impact on the identity, self-  
17 worth, academic engagement, and sense of belonging of African  
18 American students, and that students of all backgrounds and  
19 ethnicities deserve to learn about the contributions of African  
20 Americans to the United States and to the world.

1 (2) (a) The legislature acknowledges that legislation enacted in  
2 2020 directed the office of the superintendent of public instruction  
3 to convene a work group to develop recommendations for integrating  
4 African American history, examinations of racism, and the history of  
5 the civil rights movement into existing social studies curriculum  
6 provided to students in grades seven through 12. The legislation  
7 specified that the work group must review pertinent curriculum that  
8 is available to school districts, and must include recommendations  
9 for the professional development needed to support educators in  
10 providing the instruction to students.

11 (b) The legislature recognizes that legislation enacted in 2021  
12 directed the office of the superintendent of public instruction to  
13 engage community members and key interested parties to develop a  
14 clear definition and framework of African American studies to guide  
15 instruction in grades seven through 12, develop a plan for aligning  
16 African American studies across all content areas, and identify  
17 related professional development opportunities.

18 (c) The legislature further finds that because the traditional  
19 education system has focused so heavily on a eurocentric worldview,  
20 more work needs to be done to thoughtfully and thoroughly prepare  
21 public schools and educators in Washington to offer this rich field  
22 of African American studies to its students.

23 (3) Therefore, the legislature intends to direct the office of  
24 the superintendent of public instruction to convene a work group to  
25 identify African American studies curricula in use in high schools  
26 and colleges throughout the country and to report the list of  
27 curricula to the legislature. The goal of the legislature is that  
28 public schools in Washington will select a curriculum from the list  
29 and use it to offer African American studies to students in grades  
30 seven through 12.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) As used in this section, "African  
32 American studies" means an interdisciplinary approach, with the  
33 rigors of scholarly inquiry, to analyze the history, culture, and  
34 contributions of the people of African descent in the United States  
35 and throughout the African diaspora.

36 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
37 convene a work group to identify African American studies curricula  
38 and other instructional methods and materials for students in grades  
39 seven through 12.

1 (3) In identifying curricula and other instructional methods and  
2 materials, the work group must:

3 (a) Review the report supported by funding under section  
4 501(4)(o), chapter 334, Laws of 2021;

5 (b) Connect with faculty at historically black colleges and  
6 universities; and

7 (c) Survey high school and college African American studies  
8 courses and programs, including by connecting with faculty at  
9 historically black colleges and universities.

10 (4) At a minimum, the membership of the work group must include:

11 (a) A representative from each of the following entities:

12 (i) The Washington state commission on African American affairs;

13 (ii) The educational opportunity gap oversight and accountability  
14 committee;

15 (iii) A statewide organization representing teachers;

16 (iv) A statewide organization representing principals;

17 (v) The educational service district serving the most students;

18 (vi) A community education group;

19 (vii) A faith-based community organization;

20 (viii) The national urban league; and

21 (ix) The national association for the advancement of colored  
22 people; and

23 (b) At least one individual who meets each of the following  
24 requirements:

25 (i) A dean of education from a state institution of higher  
26 education;

27 (ii) A student leader in a public middle or high school; and

28 (iii) A family member or guardian of a public school student who  
29 is invested in the leadership of the school.

30 (5) By December 1, 2024, and in accordance with RCW 43.01.036,  
31 the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall report  
32 to the appropriate committees of the legislature with a summary of  
33 the activities conducted by the work group and with the list of  
34 identified African American studies curricula and other instructional  
35 methods and materials for students in grades seven through 12.

36 (6) This section expires August 1, 2025.

37 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Black education matters.

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