

# SENATE BILL 888

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CF HB 352

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By: **Senator Lee**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2022

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – American Studies and Social Equity Standards Advisory Board**  
3 **– Academic Standards and Model Policy**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the American Studies and Social Equity Standards  
5 Advisory Board within the State Department of Education; requiring the Advisory  
6 Board to review and develop recommendations for academic standards for American  
7 studies in public schools in the State and to develop a model policy on ethnic and  
8 social equity in schools; requiring the State Board of Education to adopt American  
9 studies academic standards on or before a certain date; requiring each county board  
10 of education to adopt a certain policy and implement a curriculum for an American  
11 studies course based on certain standards on or before the start of a certain school  
12 year; and generally relating to the American studies academic standards and  
13 curriculum and ethnic and social equity model policy.

14 BY adding to  
15 Article – Education  
16 Section 7–129  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

19 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
20 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

21 **Article – Education**

22 **7–129.**

23 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**  
24 **INDICATED.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(2) “ADVISORY BOARD” MEANS THE AMERICAN STUDIES AND**  
2 **SOCIAL EQUITY STANDARDS ADVISORY BOARD.**

3           **(3) “AMERICAN STUDIES” MEANS THE EXAMINATION OF AMERICAN**  
4 **HISTORY AND CULTURE FROM MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES, INCLUDING THE**  
5 **PERSPECTIVES OF VARIOUS CULTURAL, SOCIAL, AND ETHNIC GROUPS.**

6           **(4) (I) “ETHNIC GROUP” MEANS A NONDOMINANT RACIAL OR**  
7 **ETHNIC GROUP IN THE UNITED STATES.**

8           **(II) “ETHNIC GROUP” INCLUDES GROUPS OF INDIVIDUALS WHO**  
9 **IDENTIFY AS INDIGENOUS AND INDIVIDUALS OF AFRICAN, ASIAN, PACIFIC ISLAND,**  
10 **HISPANIC, LATINO, OR MIDDLE EASTERN DESCENT.**

11           **(5) “SOCIAL GROUP” INCLUDES WOMEN, INDIVIDUALS WITH**  
12 **DISABILITIES, IMMIGRANTS, REFUGEES, AND INDIVIDUALS WHO IDENTIFY AS**  
13 **LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER, QUESTIONING, INTERSEX, OR**  
14 **ASEXUAL.**

15           **(B) THERE IS AN AMERICAN STUDIES AND SOCIAL EQUITY STANDARDS**  
16 **ADVISORY BOARD IN THE DEPARTMENT.**

17           **(C) (1) THE ADVISORY BOARD CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:**

18                   **(I) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, OR THE STATE**  
19 **SUPERINTENDENT’S DESIGNEE;**

20                   **(II) AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL IN THE OFFICE OF THE**  
21 **ATTORNEY GENERAL WITH EXPERTISE WORKING WITH THE DEPARTMENT ON**  
22 **RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES IN SCHOOLS, APPOINTED BY THE ATTORNEY**  
23 **GENERAL;**

24                   **(III) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MARYLAND STATE**  
25 **EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S DESIGNEE;**

26                   **(IV) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MARYLAND**  
27 **ASSOCIATION OF BOARDS OF EDUCATION, OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S**  
28 **DESIGNEE;**

29                   **(V) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
30 **SUPERINTENDENTS’ ASSOCIATION OF MARYLAND, OR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S**  
31 **DESIGNEE;**

1 (VI) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION  
2 OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS WITH EXPERTISE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF  
3 SCHOOL CURRICULUM, APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE  
4 ASSOCIATION;

5 (VII) A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION  
6 OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS WITH EXPERTISE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF  
7 SCHOOL CURRICULUM, APPOINTED BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE  
8 ASSOCIATION; AND

9 (VIII) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE  
10 FOLLOWING MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH  
11 THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF BOARDS OF EDUCATION:

12 1. A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE NATIVE AMERICAN  
13 COMMUNITY;

14 2. A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE BLACK AND AFRICAN  
15 AMERICAN COMMUNITY;

16 3. A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE HISPANIC AND  
17 LATINO COMMUNITY;

18 4. A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE DISABILITY RIGHTS  
19 COMMUNITY;

20 5. A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE LESBIAN, GAY,  
21 BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER, QUESTIONING, INTERSEX, OR ASEXUAL  
22 COMMUNITY;

23 6. A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC  
24 ISLANDER COMMUNITY;

25 7. A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE MIDDLE EASTERN  
26 COMMUNITY; AND

27 8. A MARYLAND-BASED, COLLEGE-LEVEL FACULTY  
28 EXPERT IN AMERICAN STUDIES.

29 (2) THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE MARYLAND  
30 ASSOCIATION OF BOARDS OF EDUCATION, SHALL DEVELOP AN APPLICATION  
31 PROCESS FOR INDIVIDUALS SEEKING APPOINTMENT TO THE ADVISORY BOARD AS A  
32 REPRESENTATIVE OF AN ETHNIC OR SOCIAL GROUP IDENTIFIED UNDER

1 PARAGRAPH (1)(VIII) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

2 (3) AT LEAST 80% OF THE MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY BOARD  
3 IDENTIFIED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)(VIII) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL:

4 (I) TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, REFLECT THE GEOGRAPHIC  
5 DIVERSITY OF THE STATE; AND

6 (II) HAVE A BACKGROUND IN ADVOCACY FOR THE ETHNIC OR  
7 SOCIAL GROUP THE MEMBER REPRESENTS.

8 (4) (I) A VACANCY ON THE ADVISORY BOARD SHALL BE FILLED IN  
9 THE SAME MANNER THE VACATED MEMBER WAS APPOINTED OR SELECTED.

10 (II) A MEMBER FILLING A VACANCY SHALL REPRESENT THE  
11 SAME ETHNIC GROUP OR SOCIAL GROUP THAT WAS REPRESENTED BY THE VACATED  
12 MEMBER.

13 (D) (1) THE ADVISORY BOARD SHALL SELECT A CHAIR FROM AMONG ITS  
14 MEMBERS.

15 (2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE STAFF FOR THE ADVISORY  
16 BOARD.

17 (3) A MEMBER OF THE ADVISORY BOARD:

18 (I) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE  
19 ADVISORY BOARD; BUT

20 (II) IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER  
21 THE STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE  
22 BUDGET.

23 (E) THE ADVISORY BOARD SHALL:

24 (1) IDENTIFY EXISTING STATE ACADEMIC STANDARDS IN UNITED  
25 STATES HISTORY THAT DO NOT INCORPORATE THE HISTORY, CONTRIBUTIONS, AND  
26 PERSPECTIVES OF ETHNIC GROUPS AND SOCIAL GROUPS;

27 (2) DEVELOP AMERICAN STUDIES ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR  
28 STUDENTS AT EACH GRADE LEVEL THAT:

29 (I) INCREASE ATTENTION TO THE HISTORY, CONTRIBUTIONS,

1 AND PERSPECTIVES OF ETHNIC GROUPS AND SOCIAL GROUPS IN THE UNITED  
2 STATES;

3 (II) PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING REGARDING THE HISTORY,  
4 CONTRIBUTIONS, AND PERSPECTIVES OF ETHNIC GROUPS AND SOCIAL GROUPS IN  
5 THE UNITED STATES;

6 (III) INCREASE THE CULTURAL COMPETENCY OF STUDENTS;  
7 AND

8 (IV) ELIMINATE PATHWAYS TO RACIAL BIAS IN CURRICULUM;

9 (3) RECOMMEND CONTENT AND INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS THAT  
10 ENABLE STUDENTS TO SAFELY EXPLORE QUESTIONS OF IDENTITY, RACE, EQUALITY,  
11 AND RACISM IN AMERICAN STUDIES COURSES; AND

12 (4) RECOMMEND BASIC CURRICULUM AND EXTRACURRICULAR  
13 PROGRAMS THAT MAY BE OFFERED IN SCHOOLS THAT:

14 (I) ARE WELCOMING TO ALL STUDENTS; AND

15 (II) TAKE INTO ACCOUNT PARENTAL CONCERNS ABOUT  
16 RELIGION OR CULTURE.

17 (F) (1) THE ADVISORY BOARD SHALL DEVELOP A MODEL POLICY ON  
18 ETHNIC AND SOCIAL EQUITY IN SCHOOLS.

19 (2) THE MODEL POLICY DEVELOPED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS  
20 SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR A SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT  
21 THAT:

22 (I) PROMOTE AN OVERARCHING FOCUS AND PARTICIPATION IN  
23 THE RACIALLY, CULTURALLY, AND SOCIALLY DIVERSE GLOBAL COMMUNITY;

24 (II) ENSURE THAT EVERY STUDENT HAS A SAFE, SECURE, AND  
25 WELCOMING LEARNING AND SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH ACTS OF IMPLICIT OR  
26 EXPLICIT RACIAL, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER, CULTURAL, OR ABILITY BIAS ARE  
27 ACKNOWLEDGED AND ADDRESSED APPROPRIATELY;

28 (III) CHALLENGE RACIST, SEXIST, GENDER, OR ABILITY  
29 ASSUMPTIONS, ATTITUDES, AND BEHAVIORS WHEN THEY OCCUR USING PRINCIPLES  
30 AND PRACTICES OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE METHODS;

1 (IV) PROVIDE PARENTS WITH A WELCOMING WAY TO RAISE  
2 CONCERNS ABOUT THEIR CHILD'S EXPERIENCES RELATING TO RACE OR SOCIAL  
3 IDENTITY AT SCHOOL;

4 (V) ENSURE THAT ALL SCHOOL PERSONNEL ARE TRAINED ON  
5 BEST PRACTICES FOR ADDRESSING RACIAL INCIDENTS;

6 (VI) PROHIBIT CONDUCT BASED ON RACISM, SEXISM, ABLEISM,  
7 AND OTHER SOCIAL BIASES, AND SPECIFY THE APPROPRIATE MANNER TO ADDRESS  
8 ALLEGED MISCONDUCT, INCLUDING DISCIPLINARY ACTION, IF APPROPRIATE; AND

9 (VII) ESTABLISH DISCIPLINARY RESPONSES TO RACIAL  
10 INCIDENTS, INCLUDING INCREASED UTILIZATION OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE  
11 PRACTICES, IF APPROPRIATE.

12 (3) (I) ON OR BEFORE APRIL 30, 2024, THE ADVISORY BOARD  
13 SHALL SUBMIT THE MODEL POLICY TO THE STATE BOARD AND EACH COUNTY  
14 BOARD.

15 (II) BEFORE THE 2025–2026 SCHOOL YEAR, EACH COUNTY  
16 BOARD SHALL ADOPT A POLICY ON ETHNIC AND SOCIAL EQUITY IN SCHOOLS THAT  
17 TAKES INTO CONSIDERATION THE POLICY ADOPTED BY THE ADVISORY BOARD.

18 (G) (1) ON OR BEFORE APRIL 30, 2024, THE ADVISORY BOARD SHALL  
19 SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT THAT INCLUDES:

20 (I) THE AMERICAN STUDIES ACADEMIC STANDARDS  
21 RECOMMENDED BY THE ADVISORY BOARD;

22 (II) ANY ADDITIONAL AMERICAN STUDIES CONTENT, BASIC  
23 CURRICULUM, AND EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAMS RECOMMENDED UNDER  
24 SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION; AND

25 (III) THE MODEL POLICY ON ETHNIC AND SOCIAL EQUITY IN  
26 SCHOOLS.

27 (2) ON OR BEFORE MAY 31, 2025, THE STATE BOARD SHALL ADOPT  
28 AMERICAN STUDIES ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR EACH GRADE LEVEL, TAKING INTO  
29 CONSIDERATION THE AMERICAN STUDIES ACADEMIC STANDARDS RECOMMENDED  
30 BY THE ADVISORY BOARD UNDER SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION.

31 (3) BEFORE THE START OF THE 2025–2026 SCHOOL YEAR, EACH  
32 COUNTY BOARD SHALL IMPLEMENT A CURRICULUM BASED ON THE AMERICAN

1 STUDIES ACADEMIC STANDARDS ADOPTED BY THE STATE BOARD.

2 (H) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2025, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REPORT  
3 TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE  
4 GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON THE AMERICAN STUDIES ACADEMIC STANDARDS  
5 ADOPTED BY THE STATE BOARD AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AMERICAN  
6 STUDIES ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND THE ETHNIC AND SOCIAL EQUITY POLICY  
7 ADOPTED BY COUNTY BOARDS.

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
9 1, 2022. It shall remain effective for a period of 4 years and, at the end of June 30, 2026,  
10 this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and  
11 of no further force and effect.