

# HB5857



## 100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2017 and 2018

HB5857

by Rep. Juliana Stratton

### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/2-3.155  
105 ILCS 5/27-20.4a new

Amends the School Code. With regard to the textbook block grant program, provides that the textbooks authorized to be purchased must accurately portray the diversity of our society, including the role and contributions of African American individuals, and must be non-discriminatory. Requires every public elementary school and high school to include in its curriculum a unit of instruction studying the significant role of African American individuals in society. Specifies instruction requirements. Requires the regional superintendent of schools to monitor a school district's compliance with the curriculum requirements.

LRB100 21370 AXK 37767 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT  
MAY APPLY

STATE MANDATES  
ACT MAY REQUIRE  
REIMBURSEMENT

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing Section  
5 2-3.155 and by adding Section 27-20.4a as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.155)

7 Sec. 2-3.155. Textbook block grant program.

8 (a) The provisions of this Section are in the public  
9 interest, for the public benefit, and serve secular public  
10 purposes.

11 (b) As used in this Section, "textbook" means any book or  
12 book substitute that a pupil uses as a text or text substitute,  
13 including electronic textbooks. "Textbook" includes books,  
14 reusable workbooks, manuals, whether bound or in loose-leaf  
15 form, instructional computer software, and electronic  
16 textbooks and the technological equipment necessary to gain  
17 access to and use electronic textbooks intended as a principal  
18 source of study material for a given class or group of  
19 students. "Textbook" also includes science curriculum  
20 materials in a kit format that includes pre-packaged consumable  
21 materials if (i) it is shown that the materials serve as a  
22 textbook substitute, (ii) the materials are for use by the  
23 pupils as a principal learning source, (iii) each component of

1 the materials is integrally necessary to teach the requirements  
2 of the intended course, (iv) the kit includes teacher guidance  
3 materials, and (v) the purchase of individual consumable  
4 materials is not allowed.

5 (c) Beginning July 1, 2011, subject to annual appropriation  
6 by the General Assembly, the State Board of Education is  
7 authorized to provide annual funding to public school districts  
8 and State-recognized, non-public schools serving students in  
9 grades kindergarten through 12 for the purchase of selected  
10 textbooks. The textbooks authorized to be purchased under this  
11 Section are limited without exception to textbooks that have  
12 been preapproved and designated by the State Board of Education  
13 for use in any public school and that are secular,  
14 non-religious, ~~and~~ non-sectarian, and non-discriminatory as to  
15 any of the characteristics under paragraph (A) of Section 1-102  
16 of the Illinois Human Rights Act. Textbooks authorized to be  
17 purchased under this Section must also accurately portray the  
18 diversity of our society, including the role and contributions  
19 of African American individuals. The State Board of Education  
20 shall annually publish a list of the textbooks authorized to be  
21 purchased under this Section. Each public school district and  
22 State-recognized, non-public school shall, subject to  
23 appropriations for that purpose, receive a per pupil grant for  
24 the purchase of secular, nondiscriminatory, and accurate  
25 textbooks. The per pupil grant amount must be calculated by the  
26 State Board of Education utilizing the total appropriation made

1 for these purposes divided by the most current student  
2 enrollment data available.

3 (d) The State Board of Education may adopt rules as  
4 necessary for the implementation of this Section and to ensure  
5 the religious neutrality of the textbook block grant program,  
6 as well as provide for the monitoring of all textbooks  
7 authorized in this Section to be purchased directly by  
8 State-recognized, nonpublic schools serving students in grades  
9 kindergarten through 12.

10 (Source: P.A. 97-570, eff. 8-25-11; 97-813, eff. 7-13-12.)

11 (105 ILCS 5/27-20.4a new)

12 Sec. 27-20.4a. African American history and awareness.

13 (a) In addition to the requirements under Sections 27-20.4  
14 and 27-21 of this Code, every public elementary school and high  
15 school shall include in its curriculum a unit of instruction  
16 studying the significant role of African American individuals  
17 in society. Instruction may be included in those courses that  
18 the school district chooses. This instruction shall be designed  
19 to teach that African American individuals have a rich history  
20 and have made substantial and valuable contributions to  
21 society, including government, arts, sciences, mathematics,  
22 sports, and education, and in the economic, cultural, and  
23 political development of society. The instruction shall teach  
24 about the rich advocacy among the African American community  
25 and the African American community's allies to be treated

1 equally. Instruction shall reinforce that all people,  
2 regardless of race, have a right to be treated with civil,  
3 legal, and human rights and as full human beings above all  
4 else. When possible, adults, including African American school  
5 district employees and other African American adults in the  
6 community that the school district may decide to consult with,  
7 should be involved in the development and delivery of this  
8 instruction at the discretion of the African American  
9 individuals.

10 (b) The State Board of Education may prepare and make  
11 available to all school boards instructional materials that may  
12 be used as guidelines for the development of instruction under  
13 this Section.

14 (c) Each school board shall determine the minimum amount of  
15 instructional time required under this Section.

16 (d) The regional superintendent of schools shall monitor a  
17 school district's compliance with the curriculum requirements  
18 of this Section during his or her annual compliance visit.