

HB0376



102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

HB0376

Introduced 1/29/2021, by Rep. Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/27-20.8 new
105 ILCS 5/27-21

from Ch. 122, par. 27-21

Amends the Courses of Study Article of the School Code. Requires every public elementary school and high school to include in its curriculum a unit of instruction studying the events of Asian American history; contains provisions governing this instruction. Provides that the teaching of history of the United States shall include the study of the wrongful incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II and the heroic service of the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team of the United States Army during World War II.

LRB102 02811 CMG 12819 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 adding Section
5 27-20.8 and by changing Section 27-21 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/27-20.8 new)

7 Sec. 27-20.8. Asian American history study.

8 (a) Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, every public
9 elementary school and high school shall include in its
10 curriculum a unit of instruction studying the events of Asian
11 American history, including the history of Asian Americans in
12 Illinois and the Midwest, as well as the contributions of
13 Asian Americans toward advancing civil rights from the 19th
14 century onward. These events shall include the contributions
15 made by individual Asian Americans in government and the arts,
16 humanities, and sciences, as well as the contributions of
17 Asian American communities to the economic, cultural, social,
18 and political development of the United States. The studying
19 of this material shall constitute an affirmation by students
20 of their commitment to respect the dignity of all races and
21 peoples and to forever eschew every form of discrimination in
22 their lives and careers.

23 (b) The State Superintendent of Education may prepare and

1 make available to all school boards instructional materials,
2 including those established by the Public Broadcasting
3 Service, that may be used as guidelines for development of a
4 unit of instruction under this Section. However, each school
5 board shall itself determine the minimum amount of
6 instructional time that qualifies as a unit of instruction
7 satisfying the requirements of this Section.

8 (c) The regional superintendent of schools shall monitor a
9 school district's compliance with this Section's curricular
10 requirements during his or her annual compliance visit.

11 (d) A school may meet the requirements of this Section
12 through an online program or course.

13 (105 ILCS 5/27-21) (from Ch. 122, par. 27-21)

14 Sec. 27-21. History of United States. History of the
15 United States shall be taught in all public schools and in all
16 other educational institutions in this State supported or
17 maintained, in whole or in part, by public funds. The teaching
18 of history shall have as one of its objectives the imparting to
19 pupils of a comprehensive idea of our democratic form of
20 government and the principles for which our government stands
21 as regards other nations, including the studying of the place
22 of our government in world-wide movements and the leaders
23 thereof, with particular stress upon the basic principles and
24 ideals of our representative form of government. The teaching
25 of history shall include a study of the role and contributions

1 of African Americans and other ethnic groups, including, but
2 not restricted to, Polish, Lithuanian, German, Hungarian,
3 Irish, Bohemian, Russian, Albanian, Italian, Czech, Slovak,
4 French, Scots, Hispanics, Asian Americans, etc., in the
5 history of this country and this State. To reinforce the study
6 of the role and contributions of Hispanics, such curriculum
7 shall include the study of the events related to the forceful
8 removal and illegal deportation of Mexican-American U.S.
9 citizens during the Great Depression. Beginning with the
10 2022-2023 school year, the teaching of history shall also
11 include the study of the wrongful incarceration of Japanese
12 Americans during World War II pursuant to United States
13 President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's signed Executive Order
14 9066, the heroic service of the 100th Infantry Battalion and
15 the 442nd Regimental Combat Team of the United States Army
16 during World War II, the subsequent legal challenges by
17 Japanese Americans to Executive Order 9066, the resettlement
18 of Japanese Americans in Illinois following incarceration, and
19 the formal apology and redress for the incarceration issued by
20 the United States government in 1988. In public schools only,
21 the teaching of history shall include a study of the roles and
22 contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender
23 people in the history of this country and this State. The
24 teaching of history also shall include a study of the role of
25 labor unions and their interaction with government in
26 achieving the goals of a mixed free enterprise system.

1 Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, the teaching of
2 history must also include instruction on the history of
3 Illinois. No pupils shall be graduated from the eighth grade
4 of any public school unless he or she has received such
5 instruction in the history of the United States and gives
6 evidence of having a comprehensive knowledge thereof, which
7 may be administered remotely.

8 (Source: P.A. 101-227, eff. 7-1-20; 101-341, eff. 1-1-20;
9 101-643, eff. 6-18-20.)