

Media Advisory...



FROM THE OFFICE OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE LA SHAWN K. FORD

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Ford Files Bill for Inclusive American History in Illinois

CHICAGO- State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford, D-Chicago, filed HB5851 today in order to establish a commission to review and update the state's history curriculum so that textbooks, class discussion and other course material more accurately reflect an examination of history through the inclusion of diverse perspectives. With certain credit exceptions, under Ford's proposal, schools would shift to civics teaching instead of history teaching during the 2021-22 school year until recommendations from the commission are implemented. The commission would be expected to complete its work by the end of next year, with new curriculum fully adopted by June 30, 2022.

HB5851 Synopsis As Introduced:

Creates the Inclusive American History Act. Establishes the Inclusive American History Commission to (i) address the deficiencies and inadequacies in both perspective and content in traditional history course material and instruction and (ii) develop multiperspective, inclusive, and comprehensive standards that a school may use as a guide in replacing or developing its curricula for history education. Sets forth the membership of the Commission. Contains provisions concerning meetings, duties, and reporting. Repeals these provisions on December 31, 2022. Amends the Courses of Study Article of the School Code. Beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, requires schools to suspend all instruction in history education, with exceptions. Not later than June 30, 2022, requires the State Superintendent of Education to provide to schools instructional guidelines and standards based on the recommendations of the Commission so that schools may develop alternative curricula to replace traditional course material and instruction to ensure that students obtain a multiperspective, inclusive, and comprehensive understanding about history. Provides that beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, schools shall resume instruction in history, which shall require the use of age-appropriate discussion, textbooks, and other course material that reframe the study of history by presenting to students an examination of history through the inclusion of diverse perspectives, contrary interpretations, and the viewpoints of various groups of people whose voices have traditionally been excluded from the conventional teaching of history. Effective immediately.

See HB5851 By [Clicking Here](#)

For more information, please contact RepFord@LaShawnFord.com.

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