

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.
Act 478 of the Regular Session

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

As Engrossed: H3/11/25 H3/17/25

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1705

By: Representatives Duke, R. Scott Richardson, Bentley, Breaux, A. Brown, K. Brown, Joey Carr,
Cozart, Long, McGrew, S. Meeks, Rye, Vaught

By: Senators J. Bryant, J. Dotson

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO REQUIRE CERTAIN INFORMATION BE EMBEDDED INTO EXISTING SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS; TO REQUIRE INFORMATION CONCERNING HOW THE *RELIGIOUS AND MORAL BELIEFS* OF THE FOUNDING FATHERS INFLUENCED THE FOUNDING OF THE UNITED STATES TO BE EMBEDDED INTO EXISTING SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO REQUIRE INFORMATION CONCERNING HOW THE RELIGIOUS AND MORAL BELIEFS OF THE FOUNDING FATHERS INFLUENCED THE FOUNDING OF THE UNITED STATES TO BE EMBEDDED INTO EXISTING SOCIAL STUDIES STANDARDS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 16, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-16-163. Social studies standards – Beliefs of Founding Fathers.

(a) Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, the State Board of Education shall embed into existing social studies standards and courses for grades six through twelve (6-12) information that addresses the founding of the United States, including the founding fathers and their *religious and moral* beliefs and how their *religious and moral* beliefs influenced the founding documents of the United States.



(b) The information required under subsection (a) of this section shall emphasize the following without limitation:

(1) The Preamble to the Declaration of Independence, including the meaning behind and purpose of the quote, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness";

(2) The core political beliefs of the founding fathers, including without limitation:

(A) Ordered liberty;

(B) Equality;

(C) Natural rights, including without limitation defense of self, community, and nation;

(D) Freedom of speech and press; and

(E) The free exercise of religion;

(3) How the *religious and moral beliefs* of the founding fathers influenced the founding of the United States and documents and concepts relevant to the founding fathers' *religious and moral beliefs*, including without limitation:

(A) The identity of the "Creator" as viewed by the founding fathers;

(B) The nature of mankind, or "human nature", as viewed by the founding fathers;

(C) The constitutional requirement for a republican form of government, including the separation of powers and federalism, and the fatal tendency of democracy;

(D) *The religious and moral beliefs held by the founding fathers*, whereby there is a Creator, and that man is endowed by that Creator with inalienable rights;

(E) The definitions of "religion" held by the founding fathers, particularly as found in Section 16 of the Virginia Declaration of Rights;

(F) Why there was a demand for a Bill of Rights as a condition for the adoption of the United States Constitution;

(G) To what extent the founding fathers *recognized historical events and texts, such as the Ten Commandments, the Mosaic Law,*

the New Testament, and the experiences of the ancient Hebrews, Greeks, and Romans, and these teachings as a basis for American law and public policy;

(H) To what extent the founding fathers recognized the English Common Law, the Magna Carta, and the English Bill of Rights as a basis for American law and public policy; and

(I) How the recognition of inalienable rights in the Declaration of Independence formed the framework for the abolition of slavery in the United States; and

(4) How the freedoms enjoyed by the citizens of the United States can be traced to the beliefs of the founding fathers.

/s/Duke

APPROVED: 4/8/25