

SENATE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
HOUSE BILL NO. 742  
AN ACT

To amend chapters 1, 160, and 161, RSMo, by adding thereto three new sections relating to diversity initiatives in public entities.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Chapters 1, 160, and 161, RSMo, are amended by adding thereto three new sections, to be known as sections 1.2030, 160.2550, and 161.1140, to read as follows:

1.2030. 1. No funds shall be expended by any state department for intradepartmental programs, staffing, or other initiatives associated with "diversity, equity, and inclusion" or "diversity, inclusion, and belonging" or any other initiative that promotes the preferential treatment of any individual or group of individuals based on race, color, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, national origin, or ancestry and:

(1) The concept that disparities between groups are solely the result of oppression;

(2) Collective guilt ideologies;

(3) Intersectional or divisive identity activism; or

(4) The limiting of freedom of conscience, thought, or speech.

2. The provisions of subsection 1 of this section shall not prohibit state departments from any of the following:

(1) Following federal and state employment and antidiscrimination laws; or

20       (2) Complying with the Americans with Disabilities  
21 Act, 42 U.S.C. Section 12101, et seq.

22       3. No state department shall mandate, require, or  
23 incentivize private sector employers to implement programs  
24 or initiatives described in subsection 1 of this section as  
25 a condition of awarding a state contract.

160.2550. 1. As used in this section, the term  
2 "divisive concepts" shall mean concepts that promote the  
3 following ideas:

4       (1) One race or sex is inherently superior to another  
5 race or sex;

6       (2) The United States is fundamentally racist or  
7 sexist;

8       (3) An individual, by virtue of his or her race or  
9 sex, is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive, whether  
10 consciously or unconsciously;

11       (4) An individual should be discriminated against or  
12 receive adverse treatment solely or partly because of his or  
13 her race or sex;

14       (5) Members of one race or sex cannot avoid treating  
15 others differently with respect to race or sex;

16       (6) An individual's moral character is necessarily  
17 determined by his or her race or sex;

18       (7) An individual, by virtue of his or her race or  
19 sex, bears responsibility for actions committed in the past  
20 by other members of the same race or sex;

21       (8) Any individual should feel discomfort, guilt,  
22 anguish, or any other form of psychological distress on  
23 account of his or her race or sex;

24       (9) Meritocracy or traits such as a strong work ethic  
25 are racist or sexist, or were created by a particular race  
26 to oppress another race;

27        (10) Ideas that promote any form of race or sex  
28 stereotyping, including ascribing character traits, values,  
29 moral and ethical codes, privileges, status, or beliefs to a  
30 race, sex, or an individual because of his or her race or  
31 sex; or

32        (11) Ideas that promote any form of race or sex  
33 scapegoating, including assigning fault, blame, or conscious  
34 or unconscious bias to one or more members of a race or sex  
35 and including claims that, consciously or unconsciously, any  
36 person is inherently racist, sexist, or inclined to oppress  
37 others by virtue of his or her race or sex.

38        2. School districts are prohibited from the following:

39        (1) Teaching about The 1619 Project initiative of The  
40 New York Times or any successor theory or concept, critical  
41 race theory or any successor theory or concept, any divisive  
42 concepts, or any successor concepts or theories  
43 substantially similar to The 1619 Project initiative of The  
44 New York Times or critical race theory;

45        (2) Implementing training or orientation for teachers  
46 or staff that involves racial stereotyping or that seeks to  
47 assign blame to individuals based on race or sex;

48        (3) Creating projects or assignments that compel  
49 students to lobby or engage in political activism on behalf  
50 of a specific policy or social issue;

51        (4) Forcing teachers to discuss a current  
52 controversial topic of public policy or any particular  
53 social issues. If a teacher does choose to teach such  
54 topics, the teaching shall be done with an aim to teach the  
55 issue from both sides and without showing preference or  
56 deference to one perspective;

57        (5) Enforcing policies at schools that prevent  
58 students from engaging in and discussing concepts and topics

of traditional American history such as founding documents  
and the founding fathers.

3. In adopting the essential knowledge and skills for  
the social studies curriculum for each grade level from  
kindergarten through grade twelve, each school district  
shall adopt essential knowledge and skills that develop each  
student's civic knowledge, including:

(1) An understanding of:

(a) The fundamental moral, political, and intellectual  
foundations of the American experiment in self-government;

(b) The history, qualities, traditions, and features  
of civic engagement in the United States;

(c) The structure, function, and processes of  
government institutions at the federal, state, and local  
levels;

(d) The founding documents of the United States,  
including:

a. The Declaration of Independence;

b. The United States Constitution;

c. The Federalist Papers, including Essays 10 and 51;

d. Excerpts from Alexis de Tocqueville's Democracy in  
America;

e. The transcript of the first Lincoln-Douglas debate;  
and

f. The writings of the founding fathers of the United  
States; and

(e) The history and importance of:

a. The federal Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended;

and

b. The Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Nineteenth  
Amendments to the United States Constitution;

(2) The ability to:

91           (a) Analyze and determine the reliability of  
92 information sources;  
93           (b) Formulate and articulate reasoned positions;  
94           (c) Understand the manner in which local, state, and  
95 federal governments work and operate through the use of  
96 simulations and models of governmental and democratic  
97 processes;  
98           (d) Actively listen and engage in civil discourse,  
99 including discourse with those with different viewpoints;  
100           (e) Responsibly participate as a citizen in a  
101 constitutional democracy; and  
102           (f) Effectively engage with governmental institutions  
103 at the local, state, and federal levels; and  
104           (3) An appreciation of:  
105           (a) The importance and responsibility of participating  
106 in civic life;  
107           (b) A commitment to the United States and its form of  
108 government; and  
109           (c) A commitment to free speech and civil discourse.  
110           4. School districts are prohibited from accepting  
111 private funding for the purposes of teaching any curriculum  
112 substantially similar to critical race theory or The 1619  
113 Project initiative of The New York Times.  
114           5. The attorney general may investigate school  
115 districts to determine compliance with this section. If any  
116 school district is determined to have violated the  
117 provisions of this section, such district shall have fifty  
118 percent of its state aid under chapter 163 withheld, until  
119 the district presents evidence to the department of  
120 elementary and secondary education that the district is no  
121 longer in violation of this section.  
          161.1140. 1. This act may be cited as the "Parents'  
2 Bill of Rights Act of 2025".

3        2. No school district shall deny to the parent or  
4 guardian of a minor child any or all of the following rights:

5        (1) The right to fully review, in physical or digital  
6 optical character recognition format, and make copies of,  
7 the curricula, books, and other educational materials used  
8 by the school attended by their minor child or school  
9 district that serves such school. This right shall be  
10 understood to:

11        (a) Include a right to affirmative disclosure of class  
12 syllabi and reading lists to the parent or guardian of a  
13 minor child by the school attended by their minor child or  
14 school district that serves such school; and

15        (b) Prohibit a requirement that an individual sign a  
16 nondisclosure agreement as a condition of viewing or  
17 otherwise accessing curricular materials;

18        (2) The right to access information on the teachers,  
19 guest lecturers, and outside presenters who engage with  
20 students at the school attended by their minor child. This  
21 right shall be understood to prohibit schools from  
22 permitting or requiring the attendance of minor children at  
23 school assemblies, field trips, and other extracurricular  
24 activities, absent affirmative consent from their parent or  
25 guardian;

26        (3) The right to access information on all third-party  
27 individuals and organizations that receive contracts or  
28 other funding through the school attended by their minor  
29 child or the school district that serves such school;

30        (4) The right to visit their minor child at school  
31 during school hours;

32        (5) The right to access all records generated by the  
33 school attended by their minor child or the school district  
34 that serves such school that concerns their minor child;

35       (6) The right to access information pertaining to the  
36 collection and transmission of data regarding their minor  
37 child by the school attended by their minor child or the  
38 school district that serves such school. This right shall  
39 be understood to:

40       (a) Include a right to access information on any  
41 outside entity, including an accreditor, marketing  
42 consultancy, or third-party clearing-house, to which student  
43 data, whether anonymized or not, is transferred;

44       (b) Prohibit the collection, by the school attended by  
45 their minor child or the school district that serves such  
46 school, of any biometric data or other sensitive personal  
47 information from the minor child, absent affirmative consent  
48 by a parent or guardian of the minor child; and

49       (c) Require that schools and school districts serving  
50 such schools make available processes by which the parent or  
51 guardian of a minor child may object in writing to, and deny  
52 consent to, the use of videographic, photographic, or audio  
53 depictions of their minor child by the school or school  
54 district serving such school;

55       (7) The right to be heard at school board meetings or  
56 other governance hearings pertaining to the school attended  
57 by their minor child or the school district that serves such  
58 school. This right shall be understood to require that  
59 school board meetings or other governance hearings  
60 pertaining to curricula, safety, and other student issues be  
61 conducted publicly and allow for public comments;

62       (8) The right to be notified of situations affecting  
63 the safety of their minor child at school. This right shall  
64 be understood to require, but is not limited to requiring,  
65 that schools notify parents or guardians within forty-eight  
66 hours of any or all of the following incidents:

67       (a) Physical assaults occurring on school premises;

68        (b) Sexual assaults occurring on school premises;  
69        (c) Appearances of weapons on school premises;  
70        (d) Drug use or possession on school premises;  
71        (e) Police investigations on school premises; and  
72        (f) Crimes, including misdemeanors, committed by  
73 teachers or other school or school district employees,  
74 whether such offenses were committed on or off the campus of  
75 a school;

76        (9) The right to object to the instructional materials  
77 and other materials used in their child's classroom based on  
78 the parent's beliefs that such materials are inappropriate  
79 for whatever reason and to be assured that such  
80 objectionable materials are not taught to the parent's child.

81        3. Any person who is denied one or more of the rights  
82 identified in subsection 2 of this section may bring a civil  
83 action in any court of competent jurisdiction for injunctive  
84 relief.

85        4. In any case in which the attorney general has  
86 reason to believe that an interest of the residents of this  
87 state has been or is threatened or adversely affected by the  
88 engagement of any entity in an act or practice denying one  
89 or more of the rights identified in subsection 2 of this  
90 section, the attorney general may bring a civil action on  
91 behalf of the residents of the state in a court of competent  
92 jurisdiction to obtain injunctive relief.

93        5. If a school district is found by a court of a  
94 competent jurisdiction in a final judgment not subject to  
95 further appeal to have violated the provisions of this  
96 section, the department of elementary and secondary  
97 education may withhold up to fifty percent of the state aid  
98 for such district due to such school district under chapter  
99 163 for the following fiscal year.