

# SENATE BILL NO. 855

103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR WILLIAMS.

5398S.011

KRISTINA MARTIN, Secretary

## AN ACT

To amend chapter 170, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to instruction on the dehumanization of marginalized groups in Missouri.

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

Section A. Chapter 170, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto  
2 one new section, to be known as section 170.390, to read as  
3 follows:

170.390. 1. For purposes of this section, the  
2 following terms shall mean:

3 (1) "Dehumanization", the violation of a person's  
4 human rights or bodily autonomy, including, but not limited  
5 to, violations of a person's agency that occur as a result  
6 of genocide or slavery;

7 (2) "Department", the department of elementary and  
8 secondary education;

9 (3) "Marginalized groups", groups of people who have  
10 been subjected to dehumanization for reasons that may or may  
11 not relate to identifying traits such as national origin,  
12 race, or sex.

13 2. The state board of education shall convene a work  
14 group to be known as the "Humanity Education Curriculum  
15 Framework Work Group" for purposes of developing a  
16 curriculum framework of age appropriate instruction for  
17 students in grades six to twelve on the dehumanization of

18 marginalized groups in Missouri. The department shall  
19 develop the curriculum framework in partnership with the  
20 work group. Members of the work group shall include, but  
21 shall not be limited to, educators or other experts in the  
22 areas of history, human rights, or social science.

23 3. The curriculum framework shall be designed to  
24 deepen students' knowledge and understanding of topics that  
25 shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following:

26 (1) Dehumanization practices that have occurred or may  
27 be occurring in Missouri;

28 (2) The dangers that may occur when dehumanization of  
29 others goes unchallenged;

30 (3) The dangers of indifference toward the  
31 dehumanization of others;

32 (4) How to identify the warning signs of future  
33 dehumanization of others;

34 (5) The interventions that may be available to prevent  
35 dehumanization of others;

36 (6) How to examine the world with greater insight; and

37 (7) The preservation of the story of Celia, an  
38 enslaved woman of African descent born in 1836 and purchased  
39 in 1850 at the age of fourteen by Robert Newsom, a Missouri  
40 farmer. Celia was a victim of chattel slavery and sexual  
41 violence who was executed in Missouri in 1855 for defending  
42 herself against Robert Newsom.

43 4. The curriculum framework shall incorporate age  
44 appropriate instruction on the dehumanization of  
45 marginalized groups in Missouri, including, but not limited  
46 to, the following:

47 (1) African Americans and persons of African descent;

48 (2) Immigrant Americans, including German and Irish  
49 immigrants;

50 (3) Native Americans, including the Chickasaw,  
51 Delaware, Kanza, Ioway, Otoe-Missouria, Osage, Quapaw, Sac  
52 and Fox, Shawnee, and Missouri tribes; and

53 (4) Victims of abduction, exploitation, human  
54 trafficking, kidnapping, and sexual assault.

55 5. The curriculum framework shall be aligned to  
56 existing awareness weeks or months that may include, but  
57 shall not be limited to, the following:

58 (1) American Education Week in November;

59 (2) Black History Month in February;

60 (3) Immigrant Heritage Month in June;

61 (4) Native American Heritage Month in November;

62 (5) Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April; and

63 (6) Universal Human Rights Month in December.

64 6. The department shall conduct a pilot program in  
65 consultation with the work group in the 2027-28 and 2028-29  
66 school years. The curriculum framework shall be made  
67 available to up to twenty-five school districts or schools  
68 within a school district as part of the pilot program.

69 7. (1) As part of the pilot program, the work group  
70 shall develop a professional development program for  
71 teachers to be known as the "Celia Professional Development  
72 Program for Teachers". Each school district or school that  
73 participates in the pilot program shall provide a plan of  
74 professional development to such district's or school's  
75 teachers and may voluntarily participate in the Celia  
76 professional development program for teachers.

77 (2) The Celia professional development program for  
78 teachers shall include instructional guidance and  
79 incorporate examples of curriculum resources developed by  
80 publishers of nonfiction, trade books, and primary sources  
81 that are age appropriate and consistent with the curriculum

framework and that deal with civil rights, genocide, the Holocaust, human rights violations, and slavery. The instructional guidance shall encourage the incorporation of liberator, rescuer, survivor, and witness oral testimony. As used in this subdivision, "oral testimony" means the firsthand accounts of significant historical events presented in a format that includes, but is not limited to, in-person testimony or a multimedia option, such as a DVD or an online video.

(3) The Celia professional development program for teachers shall include guidance on class visits to historic sites in Missouri relating to the story of Celia's enslavement, abuse, and execution.

8. Upon completion of the first year of the pilot program, the department shall evaluate the success and impact of the pilot program and shall report the results of such evaluation to:

(1) The joint committee on education or any successor committee;

(2) The house committee on elementary and secondary education or any other education committee designated by the speaker of the house of representatives; and

(3) The senate committee on education or any other education committee designated by the president pro tempore of the senate.

9. Beginning with the 2029-30 school year and in all subsequent school years, the curriculum framework and Celia professional development program for teachers shall be made available to all school districts and charter schools in the state. The department shall periodically update the curriculum framework and Celia professional development program for teachers in consultation with educators or other

114 experts in the areas of history, human rights, or social  
115 science.

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