

Legislative Analysis



PROHIBITION OF RACE OR GENDER STEREOTYPING IN CERTAIN CURRICULUM CONTENT STANDARDS

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<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 5097 as reported from committee
Sponsor: Rep. Andrew Beeler
Committee: Education
Complete to 10-13-21

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 5097 would amend the Revised School Code to stipulate that no form of *race or gender stereotyping* could be included in a core academic curriculum developed by the State Board of Education or by school districts.

Section 1278 of the code describes requirements regarding the core academic curriculum that apply to all students attending public school in a district. The State Board of Education must develop model core academic curriculum content standards, and the core academic curriculum at a district must be in compliance with those standards. A district's curricular objectives are determined by the board of each school district, are based on the school district's mission, goals, and performance objectives, and may vary from the model curriculum content standards recommended by the State Board of Education. Then, the instruction for delivering that curriculum is developed after consulting with teachers and school building administrators.

The bill would add that the model core academic curriculum content standards developed by the State Board of Education must not, in any way, include any form of race or gender stereotyping or anything that could be understood as implicit race or gender stereotyping.

Additionally, the bill would provide that the core academic curriculum developed by any school district could not, in any way, include any form of race or gender stereotyping or anything that could be understood as implicit race or gender stereotyping.

Race or gender stereotyping would be defined by the bill as a set of statements, beliefs, or ideas that conform wholly or in part with the following general or particular statements:

- That all individuals composing a racial or ethnic group or gender hold a collective quality or belief.
- That individuals act in certain ways or hold certain opinions because of their race or gender.
- That individuals are born racist or sexist by accident of their race or gender.
- That individuals bear collective guilt for historical wrongs committed by their race or gender.
- That race or gender is a better predictor of outcome than character, work ethic, or skills.
- That cultural norms or practices of a racial or ethnic group or gender are flawed and must be eliminated or changed to conform with those of another racial or ethnic group or gender.

- That racism is inherent in individuals from a particular race or ethnic group or that sexism is inherent in individuals from a particular gender.
- That a racial or ethnic group or gender is in need of deconstruction, elimination, or criticism.
- That the actions of individuals serve as an indictment against the race or gender of those individuals.

MCL 380.1278

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill would have no fiscal impact on the state and would have an indeterminate impact on school districts and public school academies (PSAs). A school district or PSA may incur costs to the extent that their core academic curriculum must be reviewed or revised to ensure compliance with the requirements of the bill; however, the costs would likely be absorbed using existing staff time.

POSITIONS:

Us Against Media indicated support for the bill. (9-28-21)

The following entities indicated opposition to the bill (9-21-21):

- Michigan Department of Education
- Michigan Department of Civil Rights
- Anti-Defamation League
- Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals
- Michigan Association of School Boards
- Michigan Education Association
- ACLU of Michigan

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