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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **sHB 6619**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A KINDERGARTEN TO EIGHTH GRADE MODEL CURRICULUM.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill requires the State Department of Education (SDE), in collaboration with the State Education Resource Center (SERC, see BACKGROUND), to develop a model curriculum by January 1, 2023, that local and regional boards of education may use for grades kindergarten through eight. The bill establishes several requirements for the model curriculum, including what subject matter must be incorporated, and requires SDE to make the model available to those boards of education and on the department's website.

When developing the model curriculum, SDE and SERC must consult with people and organizations with subject matter expertise in creating these models. Additionally, they may (1) use existing and appropriate public or private materials, personnel, and other resources and (2) accept gifts, grants, and donations, including in-kind donations, designated for developing the model.

Lastly, by January 15, 2023, SDE, in consultation with SERC, must submit to the Education Committee a (1) description of the model curriculum that, presumably, includes the scope, sequence, and course objective for each course in the curriculum and (2) report on, presumably, each course's development and review.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

#### **MODEL CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS**

The bill requires the model curriculum's content to be (1) rigorous, (2) aligned with State Board of Education (SBE)-approved curriculum guidelines, and (3) in accordance with the statewide subject matter content standards adopted by SBE.

The bill also requires the model curriculum to be in accordance with and include and integrate the subject matter requirements in the program of instruction established in state law that must be taught in public schools. The required subject matter is as follows:

1. the arts (including dance, music, art, and theater);
2. career education;
3. consumer education;
4. health and safety (including human growth and development; nutrition; first aid, including CPR training; disease prevention and cancer awareness, including age- and developmentally-appropriate instruction in performing self-examinations for screening breast and testicular cancer; community and consumer health; physical, mental, and emotional health, including youth suicide prevention; substance abuse prevention, including opioid use and related disorders; safety, including the safe use of social media; and accident prevention);
5. language arts (including reading, writing, grammar, speaking, and spelling);
6. mathematics;
7. physical education;
8. science;
9. social studies (including citizenship, economics, geography, government, history, and Holocaust and genocide education and awareness);
10. African-American and Black studies;
11. Puerto Rican and Latino studies; and
12. computer programming instruction (CGS § 10-16b, as amended by PA 19-12, § 1).

(Presumably, the bill excludes from the model curriculum the program of instruction's subject matter that is only required for grades nine through 12, (i.e., world language, including American Sign Language; vocational education; and the Black and Latino studies course).)

Lastly, the bill requires the model curriculum to also include and integrate at least the following:

1. Native American studies;
2. Asian Pacific American studies;
3. lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and other sexual orientations and gender identities studies;
4. climate change;
5. personal financial management and financial literacy;
6. the military service and experience of American veterans; and
7. civics and leadership, including digital citizenship and media literacy.

## **BACKGROUND**

### **SERC**

SERC is a quasi-public agency that is empowered to, among other things, provide (1) professional development services; (2) technical assistance and evaluation activities; and (3) policy analysis and other assistance to local and regional boards of education, SDE, and other educational entities and providers (CGS §§ 10-357a and -357g).

## **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference - APP  
Yea 35 Nay 3 (03/29/2021)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 37 Nay 13 (04/21/2021)