

**First Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

REVISED

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted
on Second Reading in the Second House*

LLS NO. 25-0360.01 Anna Petrini x5497

HOUSE BILL 25-1149

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

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House Committees

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING COMPREHENSIVE SOCIO-CULTURAL BLACK HISTORY**
102 **EDUCATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS, AND, IN CONNECTION**
103 **THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

The bill requires the state board of education to adopt standards related to Black historical and cultural studies (standards) on or before July 1, 2026. For school years beginning on or after July 1, 2028, local education providers shall incorporate the standards into courses for public elementary and secondary school students in the state.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

SENATE
Amended 2nd Reading
April 29, 2025

HOUSE
3rd Reading Unamended
April 16, 2025

HOUSE
Amended 2nd Reading
April 15, 2025

The bill creates the Black historical and cultural studies advisory committee (committee) in the department of education (department) to recommend standards and related materials and to contribute technical assistance at the request of local education providers implementing the standards. The committee's recommendations must advance developmentally appropriate but comprehensive instruction that features factual accounts of the struggles and contributions of Black Americans in all fields of endeavor.

Using the committee's recommendations, the department shall create and maintain a resource bank of research-based, scholarly articles and promising program materials and curricula pertaining to Black historical and cultural studies.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 22-1-104.9 as
3 follows:

4 **22-1-104.9. Teaching of Black historical and cultural studies**

5 **- definitions.** (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT
6 OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

7 (a) "BLACK HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES" MEANS AN
8 INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAM OF ELEMENTARY THROUGH SECONDARY
9 ACADEMIC STUDY THAT:

10 (I) REPRESENTS BLACK HISTORICAL EXPERIENCES THROUGH
11 TRUTHFUL, INCLUSIVE, COMPLEX NARRATIVES THAT CONNECT WITH
12 CONTEMPORARY REALITIES; AND

13 (II) HIGHLIGHTS THE INNOVATIONS AND CULTURAL
14 CONTRIBUTIONS OF BLACK PEOPLE IN COLORADO, AMERICA, AND THE
15 WORLD.

16 (b) "LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER" MEANS:

17 (I) A SCHOOL DISTRICT;

18 (II) A CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT
19 PURSUANT TO PART 1 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF THIS TITLE 22;

1 (III) A CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY THE STATE CHARTER
2 SCHOOL INSTITUTE PURSUANT TO PART 5 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF THIS TITLE
3 22;

4 (IV) THE STATE CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE CREATED PURSUANT
5 TO SECTION 22-30.5-503; OR

6 (V) A BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES CREATED AND
7 OPERATING PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 5 OF THIS TITLE 22 THAT OPERATES ONE
8 OR MORE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

9 (2) NO LATER THAN TWO YEARS AFTER THE STATE BOARD ADOPTS
10 THE STANDARDS ON BLACK HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES
11 PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-7-1005 (2.9), EACH LOCAL EDUCATION
12 PROVIDER SHALL INCORPORATE THE STANDARDS INTO COURSES FOR
13 ELEMENTARY THROUGH SECONDARY EDUCATION STUDENTS.

14 (3) THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL INTEGRATE THE
15 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BLACK HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES
16 ADVISORY COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED IN SECTION 22-2-127.4 WHEN
17 PERFORMING ITS SIX-YEAR REVIEW OF THE STATE'S EDUCATION
18 STANDARDS PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-7-1005 (6).

19 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-7-1005, **add** (2.9)
20 as follows:

21 **22-7-1005. Preschool through elementary and secondary**
22 **education - aligned standards - adoption - revisions.**

23 (2.9) (a) **PURSUANT TO THE STANDARDS SCHEDULE DESCRIBED IN**
24 **SUBSECTION (6) OF THIS SECTION,** THE STATE BOARD SHALL ADOPT
25 STANDARDS THAT IDENTIFY THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS THAT
26 ELEMENTARY THROUGH SECONDARY EDUCATION STUDENTS SHOULD
27 ACQUIRE RELATED TO BLACK HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES, AS

1 DEFINED IN SECTION 22-1-104.9.

2 (b) IN CREATING THE STANDARDS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION
3 (2.9)(a) OF THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL
4 IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BLACK HISTORICAL AND
5 CULTURAL STUDIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED IN SECTION
6 22-2-127.4.

7 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 22-2-127.4 as
8 follows:

9 **22-2-127.4. Black historical and cultural studies - advisory**
10 **committee - resource bank - technical assistance - definitions.** (1) AS
11 USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

12 (a) "BLACK HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES" MEANS AN
13 INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAM OF ELEMENTARY THROUGH SECONDARY
14 ACADEMIC STUDY THAT:

15 (I) REPRESENTS BLACK HISTORICAL EXPERIENCES THROUGH
16 TRUTHFUL, INCLUSIVE, COMPLEX NARRATIVES THAT CONNECT WITH
17 CONTEMPORARY REALITIES; AND

18 (II) HIGHLIGHTS THE INNOVATIONS AND CULTURAL
19 CONTRIBUTIONS OF BLACK PEOPLE IN COLORADO, AMERICA, AND THE
20 WORLD.

21 (b) "COMMITTEE" MEANS THE BLACK HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL
22 STUDIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE CREATED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (2)
23 OF THIS SECTION.

24 (c) "LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER" MEANS:

25 (I) A SCHOOL DISTRICT;

26 (II) A CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT
27 PURSUANT TO PART 1 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF THIS TITLE 22;

1 (III) A CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZED BY THE STATE CHARTER
2 SCHOOL INSTITUTE PURSUANT TO PART 5 OF ARTICLE 30.5 OF THIS TITLE
3 22;

4 (IV) THE STATE CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE CREATED PURSUANT
5 TO SECTION 22-30.5-503; OR

6 (V) A BOARD OF COOPERATIVE SERVICES CREATED AND
7 OPERATING PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 5 OF THIS TITLE 22 THAT OPERATES ONE
8 OR MORE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

9 (2) THE BLACK HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES ADVISORY
10 COMMITTEE IS CREATED IN THE DEPARTMENT. THE PURPOSE OF THE
11 COMMITTEE IS TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE STATE BOARD AND
12 DEPARTMENT TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE REGULAR
13 SIX-YEAR REVIEW OF THE STATE'S EDUCATION STANDARDS AND PROGRAMS
14 PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-7-1005 AND TO RECOMMEND RESOURCES AND
15 PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (6) OF THIS
16 SECTION.

17 (3)(a) THE BLACK HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES ADVISORY
18 COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF SEVENTEEN MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE
19 DESIGNATED APPOINTING OFFICIALS AS FOLLOWS:

20 (I) THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT, THROUGH THE OFFICE OF
21 BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS, THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF THE
22 COMMITTEE:

23 (A) ONE MEMBER WHO IS AN ACADEMIC EXPERT IN BLACK
24 HISTORY AND CULTURE;

25 (B) ONE MEMBER WHO IS A HISTORIAN WITH EXPERTISE IN THE
26 HISTORY OF BLACK COLORADANS;

27 (C) ONE MEMBER WHO IS A TEACHER IN A RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

1 OR A SMALL RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 22-7-1211,
2 AND HOLDS AN INITIAL OR PROFESSIONAL TEACHER'S LICENSE PURSUANT
3 TO ARTICLE 60.5 OF THIS TITLE 22;

4 (D) ONE MEMBER WHO IS A TEACHER IN A SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT
5 IS NOT A RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OR A SMALL RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT,
6 AS DEFINED IN SECTION 22-7-1211, AND HOLDS AN INITIAL OR
7 PROFESSIONAL TEACHER'S LICENSE PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 60.5 OF THIS
8 TITLE 22;

9 (E) ONE MEMBER WHO IS A LIBRARIAN WITH EXPERTISE IN BLACK
10 ARTS AND CULTURE AND WHO IS A MEMBER OF A PROFESSIONAL
11 ASSOCIATION OF LIBRARIANS;

12 (F) TWO MEMBERS WHO ARE CURRICULUM SPECIALISTS, ONE OF
13 WHOM HAS EXPERTISE IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION, ONE OF WHOM HAS
14 EXPERTISE IN SECONDARY EDUCATION, AND BOTH OF WHOM ARE MEMBERS
15 OF A PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION;

16 (G) ONE MEMBER WHO IS A PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A
17 STUDENT WHO ATTENDS A PUBLIC SCHOOL AND IS A MEMBER OF A PARENT
18 ORGANIZATION;

19 (H) TWO MEMBERS WHO EACH REPRESENT A NONPROFIT
20 ORGANIZATION WITH EXPERTISE IN CIVIL RIGHTS AND RACIAL JUSTICE
21 WITH AN EMPHASIS ON COMPREHENSIVE BLACK HISTORICAL AND
22 CULTURAL EDUCATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS;

23 (I) ONE MEMBER WHO REPRESENTS A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
24 WITH EXPERTISE IN BLACK ARTS AND CULTURE; AND

25 (J) TWO MEMBERS FROM THE COMMUNITY WHOSE LEADERSHIP
26 IN LITERARY, ARTISTIC, MILITARY, BUSINESS, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY,
27 MEDIA, OR CIVIC LIFE CONTRIBUTES VALUABLE LIVED EXPERIENCE AND

1 CULTURAL COMPETENCY TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE;

2 (II) THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SHALL

3 APPOINT ONE MEMBER;

4 (III) THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE SHALL APPOINT ONE MEMBER;

5 AND

6 (IV) THE COMMISSIONER SHALL APPOINT TWO MEMBERS FROM THE

7 DEPARTMENT, WHO ARE NONVOTING MEMBERS.

8 (b) THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE MUST REFLECT A DEEP

9 COLLECTIVE UNDERSTANDING OF BLACK HISTORY AND CULTURE, WITH

10 DEMONSTRATED EXPERTISE IN BLACK HISTORY, SOCIAL EQUITY, AND CIVIL

11 RIGHTS. A MAJORITY OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS MUST HAVE EITHER

12 CLASSROOM EXPERIENCE OR EXPERIENCE IN DEVELOPING EDUCATION

13 CONTENT STANDARDS.

14 (c) THE APPOINTING OFFICIALS SHALL MAKE THE INITIAL

15 APPOINTMENTS TO THE COMMITTEE NO LATER THAN JANUARY 1, 2026.

16 (d) THE TERM OF APPOINTMENT IS FOUR YEARS. THE APPOINTING

17 OFFICIALS SHALL FILL ANY VACANCIES ON THE COMMITTEE FOR THE

18 REMAINDER OF ANY UNEXPIRED TERM.

19 (4) MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE SERVE WITHOUT COMPENSATION

20 AND WITHOUT REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES.

21 (5) (a) THE COMMITTEE SHALL ELECT A CHAIR FROM AMONG THE

22 COMMITTEE'S MEMBERS TO SERVE FOR A TERM NOT TO EXCEED TWO

23 YEARS, AS DETERMINED BY THE COMMITTEE.

24 (b) THE COMMITTEE SHALL MEET AT LEAST TWICE ANNUALLY. THE

25 CHAIR MAY CALL SUCH ADDITIONAL MEETINGS AS ARE NECESSARY FOR

26 THE COMMITTEE TO COMPLETE ITS DUTIES.

27 (6) THE COMMITTEE SHALL:

1 (a) MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE STATE BOARD AND THE
2 DEPARTMENT REGARDING STANDARDS THAT IDENTIFY THE KNOWLEDGE
3 AND SKILLS THAT ELEMENTARY THROUGH SECONDARY EDUCATION
4 STUDENTS SHOULD ACQUIRE RELATED TO BLACK HISTORICAL AND
5 CULTURAL STUDIES PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-7-1005 (2.9) AND DEVELOP
6 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE STATE BOARD TO INTEGRATE DURING ITS
7 SIX-YEAR REVIEW OF THE STATE'S EDUCATION STANDARDS;

8 (b) IDENTIFY AND RECOMMEND MATERIALS AND RESOURCES FOR
9 INCLUSION IN THE RESOURCE BANK CREATED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION
10 (8) OF THIS SECTION; AND

11 (c) AT THE REQUEST OF A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER,
12 COLLABORATE WITH THE DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL
13 ASSISTANCE TO THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER IN DESIGNING
14 AGE-APPROPRIATE CURRICULA PERTAINING TO BLACK HISTORICAL AND
15 CULTURAL STUDIES.

16 (7)(a) IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION
17 (6)(a) OF THIS SECTION, THE COMMITTEE SHALL COORDINATE WITH THE
18 HISTORY, CULTURE, SOCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS, AND CIVIL GOVERNMENT IN
19 EDUCATION COMMISSION ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-1-104.3
20 AND MAY CONSIDER THE FINDINGS OF THE BLACK COLORADAN RACIAL
21 EQUITY STUDY PURSUANT TO SECTION 2-2-2307 (1)(d).

22 (b) THE RECOMMENDATIONS MUST ADVANCE DEVELOPMENTALLY
23 APPROPRIATE BUT COMPREHENSIVE INSTRUCTION THAT:

24 (I) INCLUDES A DIVERSITY OF OPINIONS AND NARRATIVES WITHIN
25 THE BLACK EXPERIENCE;

26 (II) FEATURES FACTUAL ACCOUNTS OF THE STRUGGLES AND
27 CONTRIBUTIONS OF BLACK AMERICANS IN ALL FIELDS OF ENDEAVOR;

1 (III) REFLECTS BLACK AGENCY AND RESISTANCE AGAINST
2 OPPRESSION;

3 (IV) FOSTERS CROSS-CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING AND EMPOWERS
4 ALL STUDENTS;

5 (V) FEATURES A DIVERSE RANGE OF BLACK ACHIEVEMENTS IN
6 ARTISTIC, SCIENTIFIC, CIVIC, AND BUSINESS ENDEAVORS; AND

7 (VI) INCLUDES THE STUDY OF EARLY AFRICAN CIVILIZATIONS, THE
8 GLOBAL MIGRATIONS OF AFRICAN PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE AFRICAN
9 DIASPORA, THE SLAVE TRADE AND ENSLAVEMENT IN AMERICA,
10 ABOLITION, RECONSTRUCTION, THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT, AS WELL AS
11 BLACK HISTORY IN COLORADO AND LOCAL BLACK HISTORIES WITHIN THE
12 STATE.

13 (c) IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION
14 (6)(a) OF THIS SECTION, THE COMMITTEE SHALL:

15 (I) EVALUATE THE MOST RECENT REVISIONS TO THE STATE'S
16 HISTORY AND CIVICS STANDARDS THAT REFLECT THE RECOMMENDATIONS
17 PROVIDED BY THE HISTORY, CULTURE, SOCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS, AND CIVIL
18 GOVERNMENT IN EDUCATION COMMISSION ESTABLISHED IN SECTION
19 22-1-104.3; AND

20 (II) INCLUDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ANY UPDATES NECESSARY
21 TO MAKE THE STATE'S HISTORY AND CIVICS STANDARDS CURRENT,
22 ACCURATE, COMPREHENSIVE, AND ALIGNED WITH THE COMMITTEE'S
23 OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS.

24 (8) (a) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CREATE AND MAINTAIN A
25 RESOURCE BANK OF EXISTING RESEARCH-BASED SCHOLARLY ARTICLES
26 AND PROMISING PROGRAM MATERIALS AND CURRICULA PERTAINING TO
27 BLACK HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES. THE MATERIALS AND

1 CURRICULA MAY BE USED IN ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN
2 THE STATE. AT A MINIMUM, THE RESOURCE BANK MUST INCLUDE THE
3 MATERIALS AND RESOURCES THAT THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS
4 PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (6)(b) OF THIS SECTION. TO THE EXTENT
5 POSSIBLE, THE RESOURCE BANK MATERIALS, SCHOLARLY ARTICLES, AND
6 CURRICULA MUST BE YOUTH-FRIENDLY, CULTURALLY SENSITIVE, AND
7 AVAILABLE IN BOTH ENGLISH AND SPANISH.

8 (b) ON AND AFTER JULY 1, 2026, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MAKE
9 THE MATERIALS IN THE RESOURCE BANK AVAILABLE WITHOUT CHARGE TO
10 LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS, PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS, PARENTS OR
11 GUARDIANS OF YOUTH, AND STUDENTS. A LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER IS
12 NOT REQUIRED TO ADOPT OR IMPLEMENT ANY MATERIAL OR CURRICULA
13 FROM THE RESOURCE BANK. AT THE REQUEST OF A LOCAL EDUCATION
14 PROVIDER AND SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE RESOURCES, THE DEPARTMENT
15 SHALL PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE LOCAL EDUCATION
16 PROVIDER IN DESIGNING AGE-APPROPRIATE CURRICULA PERTAINING TO
17 BLACK HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES.

18 (c) LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO REPORT
19 TO THE DEPARTMENT ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE RESOURCE BANK
20 MATERIALS AND CURRICULA AND TO RECOMMEND CHANGES TO IMPROVE
21 THE MATERIALS AND CURRICULA. THE DEPARTMENT IS ENCOURAGED TO
22 UPDATE THE RESOURCE BANK MATERIALS AND CURRICULA BASED ON
23 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS, PROFESSIONAL
24 EDUCATORS, PARENTS OR GUARDIANS OF YOUTH, AND STUDENTS.

25 (9) THE DEPARTMENT MAY SEEK, ACCEPT, AND EXPEND GIFTS,
26 GRANTS, OR DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE OR PUBLIC SOURCES FOR THE
27 PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION.

1 **SECTION 4. Appropriation.** For the 2025-26 state fiscal year,
2 \$19,225 appropriated to the department of education for use by student
3 learning. This appropriation is from the general fund and is based on an
4 assumption that the division will require an additional 0.2 FTE. To
5 implement this act, the division may use this appropriation for content
6 specialists.

7 **SECTION 5. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
8 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
9 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
10 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
11 institutions.