

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

3 HOUSE BILL 2988

By: Olsen

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to education; prohibiting the use of  
8 the 1619 Project in certain institutions; prohibiting  
9 teaching certain concepts pertaining to America and  
10 slavery; providing penalties for violation;  
preempting field of study; nullifying subsequent  
federal action; providing for codification; and  
providing an effective date.

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13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

14 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
15 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 24-159 of Title 70, unless there  
16 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

17 A. No state agency, school district, charter school, online  
18 instruction funded in any manner by the Oklahoma Legislature, or  
19 personnel or agent of such state agency, school district, charter  
20 school, or online instruction shall teach, use, or provide for use  
21 by any pupil any curricula, instructional materials, or assignments  
22 designed to teach components of the 1619 Project as part of any  
23 curricula, course syllabi, or instruction in any course or program  
24 of study, including:

1 1. Any teaching that America has more culpability, in general,  
2 than other nations for the institution of slavery;

3 2. That one race is the unique oppressor in the institution of  
4 slavery;

5 3. That another race is the unique victim in the institution of  
6 slavery;

7 4. That America, in general, had slavery more extensively and  
8 for a later period of time than other nations; or

9 5. The primary and overarching purpose for the founding of  
10 America was the initiation and perpetuation of slavery.

11 B. If the State Board of Education determines that a publicly  
12 funded local education agency or online program of instruction has  
13 violated this section, the Board shall notify the entity of its  
14 violation.

15 C. If the entity fails to comply with this section within  
16 thirty (30) days of notification of its failure to comply under this  
17 section, the Board shall direct the State Department of Education to  
18 withhold a maximum of five percent (5%) of the monthly distribution  
19 of state formula funding to the education entity. Once the Board  
20 determines that the education entity has complied with this section,  
21 the Department shall restore the distribution of funding to its  
22 original amount.

23 D. If the Attorney General determines that a state-supported  
24 two-year or four-year institution of higher education has violated

1 this section, the Attorney General shall notify the institution of  
2 its violation.

3 E. If a state-supported two-year or four-year institution of  
4 higher education fails to comply with this section within thirty  
5 (30) days of notification of its failure to comply under this  
6 section, the Attorney General may direct the Oklahoma State Regents  
7 for Higher Education to withhold a maximum of ten percent (10%) of  
8 the distribution of state funding to the institution.

9 F. Once the Attorney General determines that a state-supported  
10 two-year or four-year institution of higher education has complied  
11 with this section, the Attorney General shall restore the  
12 distribution of state funding for the institution to its original  
13 amount.

14 G. This section shall not be construed to inhibit or violate  
15 the First Amendment rights of students or faculty, or undermine a  
16 public institution of higher education's duty to protect to the  
17 fullest degree intellectual freedom and free expression, and the  
18 intellectual vitality of students and faculty shall not be  
19 infringed.

20 H. The State Legislature hereby occupies and preempts the  
21 entire field of legislation in this state touching in any way the  
22 teaching of the 1619 Project or the concepts listed in subsection A  
23 of this section to the complete exclusion of any order, ordinance,  
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1 or regulation by any municipality or other political subdivision of  
2 this state.

3 I. Any federal statute, rule, or executive order, federal or  
4 state judicial order or judicial findings that would have the effect  
5 of forcing the teaching of the 1619 Project or the concepts listed  
6 in subsection A of this section shall be null, void, unenforceable  
7 and of no effect in the State of Oklahoma.

8 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2022.

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