

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT H. 4392

THE KEEP PARTISANSHIP OUT OF CIVICS ACT

H. 4392 establishes specific requirements for teaching history, social studies, and related subjects that prevent certain discussions and student learning experiences:

- The bill bans teachers from being compelled to discuss current events or widely debated and currently controversial issues of public policy or social affairs.
- The bill prevents schools from awarding grades or course credit for student work or service learning with organizations engaged in social or public policy advocacy.
- The bill mandates that private funding may not be accepted by state agencies or school districts for curriculum development, teacher training, professional development, or continuing teacher education for courses on history, social studies, and related subjects.

H. 4392 creates additional restrictions:

The bill bans training school personnel to adopt or believe the following concepts:

- A belief in anything characterized as the systemic nature of racism, or like ideas, or in anything characterized as the multiplicity or fluidity of gender identities, or like ideas, against the sincerely held religious or philosophical convictions of the teacher.
- An individual should feel discomfort, guilt, anguish, or another form of psychological distress on account of his or race or sex;
- Members of one race cannot or should not attempt to treat others without respect to race; and

- Meritocracy or traits such as hard work ethic are racist or sexist or were created by members of a particular race to oppress members of another race.

In addition to the concepts listed above, the bill bans teachers from using instructional materials to teach the following:

- An individual, by virtue of his or her race or sex, is inherently racist, sexist or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously; and
- That, with respect to their relationship to American values, slavery and racism are anything other than deviations from, betrayals of, or failures to live up to, the authentic founding principles of the United States, which include liberty and equality.

This legislation may limit students' and educators' freedom of speech and the free exchange of ideas, classroom discourse, and the analysis it facilitates. This bill's potential silencing of honest discussions of our country's history could deny the experiences of Black, Indigenous, other people of color, women and LGBTQ+ individuals. Every student should have the right to receive an accurate and inclusive education. Truthful and inclusive discussions about United States and South Carolina history, as well as current events pertaining to ongoing race and gender inequalities, are essential to quality academic instruction.

Defend South Carolina educators, students, and truth in education by voting NO on H. 4392.