

Wilmington, Delaware
April 15, 2021

#xxxx

Sponsor:

**Council
Member
Darby**

WHEREAS, Regulatory Implementing Order 502, Alignment of Local School District Curricula to the State Content Standards, provides a process through which all Delaware school districts demonstrate the alignment of their local curricula with the State Content Standards in the content areas specified in the 14 DE Admin. Code 501; and

WHEREAS, per the text of Administrative Code, “State Content Standards exist in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, World Languages, Visual and Performing Arts, Health, Physical Education, Agriscience, Business Finance and Marketing Education, Technology Education, Skilled and Technical Sciences, and Family and Consumer Sciences”; and

WHEREAS, the Delaware Department of Education has set State Standards for Social Studies, explaining, that “young people are expected to learn a genuine respect for the rights of others, a concern for the common good, and a commitment to such basic democratic principles as equal rights”; and

WHEREAS, all-inclusive and comprehensive Black studies curricula are needed within social studies and history courses for grades K – 12, as Black History and Africana Studies are often offered exclusively within a higher education setting; and

WHEREAS, while Black History is interwoven within American History, it has too long suffered from being relegated to the Civil War, Reconstruction, and Civil Rights eras, without considerations for the achievements of Black Americans outside of these periods; and

WHEREAS, the nationally recognized “Black History month” of February is an insufficient replacement for a robust, mandatory education in the field of Black Studies for students of all ages; and

WHEREAS, this has been recognized by lawmakers in the State of Delaware; and

WHEREAS, Bill sponsors Senators Lockman, Sturgeon, and Brown, and Representatives Heffernan, K. Johnson, Minor-Brown, S. Moore, along with co-sponsors Senators Gay, Pinkney, Sokola, and Townsend, and Representatives Cooke, Lambert, and Morrison have introduced HB198, requiring “each school district and charter school to establish and implement a curriculum on Black History for students in grades K through 12... incorporate[ing] contemporary events into discussions of Black History and the tools of experience;” and

WHEREAS, HB198 mandates that “the Department of Education shall develop and make publicly available a list of resources to assist a school district or charter school in creating Black History curricula [and] shall consult with organizations that provide education about the experiences of Black people, or seek to promote racial empowerment and social justice;”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON that this legislative body supports HB198 and strongly urges the Delaware General Assembly to mandate the Delaware Department of Education to effectively administrate Black History curricula in Delaware public schools grades K – 12 while comprehensive curriculum adjustments are made with social studies courses in grades K – 8.

Passed by City Council,

Attest: _____
City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: Wilmington City Council supports HB198, an Act that seeks to positively alter the course of Black History education in the State of Delaware so as to represent the contributions of African and Black Americans more accurately and urges the Delaware General Assembly to pass this legislation.

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