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**HOUSE BILL 1829**

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**State of Washington**

**67th Legislature**

**2022 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives J. Johnson, Berg, Callan, Davis, Macri, Valdez, Pollet, Taylor, and Harris-Talley

Prefiled 01/07/22. Read first time 01/10/22. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating the African American studies  
2 specialty endorsement; adding a new section to chapter 28A.410 RCW;  
3 creating new sections; and providing an expiration date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that African  
6 American studies is a multidisciplinary academic field primarily  
7 devoted to the study, politics, culture, achievements, history,  
8 characteristics, and issues of people of African descent in North  
9 America. The legislature acknowledges that this field of study  
10 challenges the sociohistorical and cultural content and definition of  
11 western ideology and argues for a multicultural, rather than a  
12 eurocentric, interpretation of the western hemisphere. The  
13 legislature realizes that efforts to integrate African American  
14 studies into social studies curriculum and mainstream education in  
15 the United States date back to 1915.

16 (2)(a) The legislature finds that legislation enacted in 2020  
17 directed the office of the superintendent of public instruction to  
18 convene a work group to develop recommendations for integrating, on a  
19 regular and ongoing basis, African American history, examinations of  
20 racism, and the history of the civil rights movement into existing  
21 social studies curriculum provided to students in grades seven

1 through 12. One of the work group's recommendations is for the state  
2 to establish an endorsement program in African American studies for  
3 educators teaching grades seven through 12.

4 (b) The legislature also finds that legislation enacted in 2021  
5 directed the office of the superintendent of public instruction to  
6 develop a clear definition and framework for African American studies  
7 to guide instruction in grades seven through 12.

8 (3) Therefore, the legislature intends to create an African  
9 American studies specialty endorsement and to direct the Washington  
10 professional educator standards board to develop essential learnings  
11 for the endorsement that are aligned with the framework for African  
12 American studies to guide instruction in grades seven through 12 that  
13 is being developed by the office of the superintendent of public  
14 instruction.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.410  
16 RCW to read as follows:

17 (1) The African American studies specialty endorsement is created  
18 for educators with valid administrator certificates, valid  
19 educational staff associate certificates, and valid and endorsed  
20 teacher certificates.

21 (2)(a) By November 1, 2023, the Washington professional educator  
22 standards board must adopt rules for the essential learnings for the  
23 African American studies specialty endorsement. The essential  
24 learnings must describe the specific knowledge and skills that an  
25 educator is expected to master to obtain the specialty endorsement,  
26 for example: (i) Connects history, culture, and contributions of  
27 African Americans from precolonial Africa to contemporary America  
28 through historical, interdisciplinary, and intersectional lenses;  
29 (ii) uses culturally responsive practices and asset-based  
30 methodologies that pull from all students' cultural funds of  
31 knowledge; and (iii) demonstrates ability to tailor curriculum to  
32 teach African American studies across urban, suburban, and rural  
33 settings.

34 (b) The standards or essential learnings must be aligned with the  
35 framework for African American studies to guide instruction in grades  
36 seven through 12, developed by the office of the superintendent of  
37 public instruction as required by section 501(4)(o), chapter 334,  
38 Laws of 2021.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    (1) The Washington professional educator  
2 standards board must convene a work group to advise and make  
3 recommendations to the Washington professional educator standards  
4 board regarding the essential learnings for the African American  
5 studies specialty endorsement described in section 2 of this act.

6        (2) The work group must include representatives from the office  
7 of the superintendent of public instruction, the state board of  
8 education, a state association of school principals, a state  
9 association of public educators and other organizations representing  
10 educators, students, families, and the African American community.  
11 The work group must consult with the educational opportunity gap  
12 oversight and accountability committee created in RCW 28A.300.136 and  
13 the Washington state commission on African American affairs created  
14 in RCW 43.113.010.

15        (3) This section expires June 30, 2024.

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