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S.B. 214
134th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Maharath

Dylan McDonough, Research Analyst

SUMMARY

- Requires public schools to include instruction in Asian American history.
- Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to develop a model K-12 curriculum for instruction in Asian American history that includes prescribed topics.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Instruction in Asian American history

Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, the bill requires school districts, community schools, STEM schools, and college-preparatory boarding schools to include in their curricula instruction in Asian American history. However, it specifies that each district or school may determine the minimum amount of instructional time in that subject. In addition, the bill permits districts and schools to use the model curriculum developed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Under the bill, districts and schools may fulfill this requirement with an online program or course.¹

Model curriculum

The bill requires the state Superintendent to develop a model curriculum for instruction in Asian American history for grades kindergarten through twelve. The curriculum must include:

1. The history of Asian Americans in Ohio and the Midwest;
2. The contributions of Asian Americans to:
 - a. Local, state, and federal government;

¹ R.C. 3313.6027; conforming changes in R.C. 3313.60(A)(2), 3314.03(A)(11)(d), 3326.11, and 3328.24.

- b. The arts, humanities, and sciences; and
 - c. The economic, cultural, social, and political development of the United States.
3. The internment of Japanese Americans during World War II and subsequent legal challenges to that internment; and
 4. The military service of the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team of the United States Army during World War II.²

Background

Under current law, a school district's curriculum must include the history of the United States and Ohio; American government at the national, state, and local levels; and a balanced presentation of the relevant contributions to society of men and women of African, Mexican, Puerto Rican, and American Indian descent as well as other ethnic and racial groups in Ohio and the United States.³ Current law does not specify such curriculum requirements for community, STEM, or college-preparatory boarding schools.

Currently, however, there is no requirement that schools teach Asian American history.

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	08-05-21

S0214-I-134/ts

² R.C. 3301.0722.

³ R.C. 3313.60(A)(2).