SENATE BILL 304

By: Senators Lam and Lee
Introduced and read first time: January 20, 2022
Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Education – Public Schools – Asian American History Curriculum Requirement

FOR the purpose of requiring the State Board of Education to develop curriculum content standards for a unit of instruction on Asian American history in public schools in the State; requiring each county board of education to implement the Asian American history curriculum content standards in each public school in the county, beginning in a certain school year; requiring each county superintendent of schools to ensure compliance with this Act; and generally relating to an Asian American history curriculum requirement for public schools in the State.

BY adding to
Article – Education
Section 7–205.5
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Education

7–205.5.

(A) (1) THE STATE BOARD SHALL DEVELOP CURRICULUM CONTENT STANDARDS FOR A UNIT OF INSTRUCTION ON ASIAN AMERICAN HISTORY FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE STATE.

(2) THE ASIAN AMERICAN HISTORY CURRICULUM CONTENT STANDARDS SHALL:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
TAEABLE STUDENTS TO RESPECT THE DIGNITY OF ALL RACES AND ALL PEOPLE; AND

(II) REQUIRE AGE–APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTION ON THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

1. THE EVENTS OF ASIAN AMERICAN HISTORY;

2. ASIAN AMERICAN HISTORY IN MARYLAND AND THE MID–ATLANTIC REGION; AND

3. CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY ASIAN AMERICANS, INCLUDING THEIR:

   A. ROLES IN THE ADVANCEMENT OF CIVIL RIGHTS FROM THE 19TH CENTURY ONWARD;

   B. ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN GOVERNMENT, THE ARTS, HUMANITIES, AND SCIENCE; AND

   C. CONTRIBUTIONS AS A COMMUNITY TO THE ECONOMIC, CULTURAL, SOCIAL, AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

(3) THE STATE BOARD MAY PREPARE AND MAKE AVAILABLE INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS, INCLUDING THE PUBLIC BROADCASTING SERVICE’S INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS ON ASIAN AMERICANS, THAT MAY BE USED AS A GUIDE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ASIAN AMERICAN HISTORY CURRICULUM CONTENT STANDARDS.

(B) (1) BEGINNING IN THE 2023–2024 SCHOOL YEAR, EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL IMPLEMENT THE ASIAN AMERICAN HISTORY CURRICULUM CONTENT STANDARDS DEVELOPED BY THE STATE BOARD UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION IN EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL IN THE COUNTY.

(2) EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL DETERMINE THE APPROPRIATE AMOUNT OF INSTRUCTIONAL TIME NECESSARY TO SATISFY THE REQUIREMENT FOR A UNIT OF INSTRUCTION ON ASIAN AMERICAN HISTORY.

(II) EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL ENSURE THAT A UNIT OF INSTRUCTION ON ASIAN AMERICAN HISTORY IS:

1. TAUGHT AT LEAST ONCE DURING ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL;

2. Included at least once in a required history course in middle school; and

3. Included at least once in a history course required to graduate from high school.

(3) A county board may develop an online course to satisfy the requirements of this section.

(C) Each county superintendent shall ensure compliance with the requirements of this section.

(D) The State Board may adopt regulations to carry out this section.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2022.