



103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

HB5400

Introduced 2/9/2024, by Rep. Abdelnasser Rashid

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/27-23.17 new

Amends the Courses of Study Article of the School Code. Provides that, beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, every public elementary school and high school shall include in its curriculum a unit of instruction studying the events of Arab American history, including the history of Arab Americans in the State and the Midwest, as well as the contributions of Arab Americans from the 19th century onward. Provides that the State Superintendent of Education may prepare and make available to all school boards instructional materials, including those established by the Public Broadcasting Service, that may be used as guidelines for the development of the unit of instruction. Provides that each school board shall determine the minimum amount of instructional time that qualifies as a unit of instruction. Provides that the regional superintendent of schools shall monitor a school district's compliance with the curricular requirements during the regional superintendent's annual compliance visit. Provides that a school may meet the requirements through an online program or course. Effective immediately.

LRB103 38895 RJT 69032 b

STATE MANDATES
ACT MAY REQUIRE
REIMBURSEMENT

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by adding Section
5 27-23.17 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/27-23.17 new)

7 Sec. 27-23.17. Arab American History Study.

8 (a) Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, every public
9 elementary school and high school shall include in its
10 curriculum a unit of instruction studying the events of Arab
11 American history, including the history of Arab Americans in
12 this State and the Midwest, as well as the contributions of
13 Arab Americans from the 19th century onward. These events
14 shall include the contributions made by individual Arab
15 Americans in government and the arts, humanities, and
16 sciences, as well as the contributions of Arab American
17 communities to the economic, cultural, social, and political
18 development of the United States. The studying of this
19 material shall constitute an affirmation by students of their
20 commitment to respect the dignity of all races and peoples and
21 to forever eschew every form of discrimination in their lives
22 and careers.

23 (b) The State Superintendent of Education may prepare and

1 make available to all school boards instructional materials,
2 including those established by the Public Broadcasting
3 Service, that may be used as guidelines for the development of
4 a unit of instruction under this Section. However, each school
5 board shall itself determine the minimum amount of
6 instructional time that qualifies as a unit of instruction
7 satisfying the requirements of this Section.

8 (c) The regional superintendent of schools shall monitor a
9 school district's compliance with this Section's curricular
10 requirements during the regional superintendent's annual
11 compliance visit.

12 (d) A school may meet the requirements of this Section
13 through an online program or course.

14 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
15 becoming law.