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HOUSE BILL NO. 1660

Offered January 11, 2017

Prefiled January 5, 2017

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 22.1-201 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the study of documents relating to Virginia history and the United States Constitution.*

Patron—Greason

Referred to Committee on Education

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 22.1-201 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 22.1-201. Study of documents relating to Virginia history and the United States Constitution.**

A. To increase knowledge of citizens' rights and responsibilities thereunder and to enhance the understanding of Virginia's unique role in the history of the United States, the Declaration of American Independence, *the Federalist Papers*, the general principles of the Constitution of the United States, including the Bill of Rights, the Virginia Statute of Religious Freedom, the charters of the Virginia Company of April 10, 1606, May 23, 1609, and March 12, 1612, and the Virginia Declaration of Rights shall be thoroughly explained and taught by teachers to ~~pupils~~ *students* in public elementary, middle, and high schools. Emphasis shall be given to the relationship between these documents and Virginia history and to citizenship responsibilities inherent in the rights included in these documents. Each teacher shall ensure that all supplementary written materials that he uses to teach these documents contain accurate restatements of the principles contained in such documents. Written examinations as to each of such ~~documents~~ *document* shall be given. *The study of each such document shall be incorporated into the appropriate Standards of Learning pursuant to § 22.1-253.13:1. The Department of Education shall report biennially to the House Committee on Education and the Senate Committee on Education and Health on how such documents have been incorporated into the appropriate Standards of Learning and into curricula.*

B. The Department of Education shall develop guidelines for supplementary written materials that teachers use to teach the Declaration of American Independence, *the Federalist Papers*, the general principles of the Constitution of the United States, including the Bill of Rights, the Virginia Statute of Religious Freedom, the charters of the Virginia Company of April 10, 1606, May 23, 1609, and March 12, 1612, and the Virginia Declaration of Rights.

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