

HOUSE BILL No. 5251

September 29, 2005, Introduced by Reps. Moolenaar, Palmer, Plakas, Hummel, Emmons, Sheltrown, Stahl, Gleason, Baxter, Kahn, Newell, Ball, Sheen, Taub, Sak, Farhat, Gosselin, Hoogendyk, Walker and Pearce and referred to the Committee on Education.

A bill to amend 1976 PA 451, entitled
"The revised school code,"
by amending section 1278 (MCL 380.1278), as amended by 2004 PA 596.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1278. (1) In addition to the requirements for
2 accreditation under section 1280 specified in that section, if the
3 board of a school district wants all of the schools of the school
4 district to be accredited under section 1280, the board shall
5 provide to all pupils attending public school in the district a
6 core academic curriculum in compliance with subsection (3) in each
7 of the curricular areas specified in the state board recommended
8 model core academic curriculum content standards developed under
9 subsection (2). The state board model core academic curriculum
10 content standards shall encompass academic and cognitive

1 instruction only. For purposes of this section, the state board
2 model core academic curriculum content standards shall not include
3 attitudes, beliefs, or value systems that are not essential in the
4 legal, economic, and social structure of our society and to the
5 personal and social responsibility of citizens of our society.

6 (2) Recommended model core academic curriculum content
7 standards shall be developed and periodically updated by the state
8 board, shall be in the form of knowledge and skill content
9 standards that are recommended as state standards for adoption by
10 public schools in local curriculum formulation and adoption, and
11 shall be distributed to each school district in the state. The
12 recommended model core academic curriculum content standards shall
13 set forth desired learning objectives in math, science, reading,
14 history, geography, economics, American government, and writing for
15 all children at each stage of schooling; ~~and~~ **SHALL** be based upon
16 the "Michigan K-12 program standards of quality" to ensure that
17 high academic standards, academic skills, and academic subject
18 matters are built into the instructional goals of all school
19 districts for all children; **AND SHALL COMPLY WITH SUBSECTION (10)**.
20 The state board also shall ensure that the Michigan educational
21 assessment program and the Michigan merit examination are based on
22 the state recommended model core curriculum content standards, are
23 testing only for proficiency in basic and advanced academic skills
24 and academic subject matter, and are not used to measure pupils'
25 values or attitudes.

26 (3) The board of each school district, considering academic
27 curricular objectives defined and recommended pursuant to

1 subsection (2), shall do both of the following:

2 (a) Establish a core academic curriculum for its pupils at the
3 elementary, middle, and secondary school levels. The core academic
4 curriculum shall define academic objectives to be achieved by all
5 pupils and shall be based upon the school district's educational
6 mission, long-range pupil goals, and pupil performance objectives.
7 The core academic curriculum may vary from the model core academic
8 curriculum content standards recommended by the state board
9 pursuant to subsection (2).

10 (b) After consulting with teachers and school building
11 administrators, determine the aligned instructional program for
12 delivering the core academic curriculum and identify the courses
13 and programs in which the core academic curriculum will be taught.

14 (4) The board may supplement the core academic curriculum by
15 providing instruction through additional classes and programs.

16 (5) For all pupils, the subjects or courses, and the delivery
17 of those including special assistance, that constitute the
18 curriculum the pupils engage in shall assure the pupils have a
19 realistic opportunity to learn all subjects and courses required by
20 the district's core academic curriculum. A subject or course
21 required by the core academic curriculum pursuant to subsection (3)
22 shall be provided to all pupils in the school district by a school
23 district, a consortium of school districts, or a consortium of 1 or
24 more school districts and 1 or more intermediate school districts.

25 (6) To the extent practicable, the state board may adopt or
26 develop academic objective-oriented high standards for knowledge
27 and life skills, and a recommended core academic curriculum, for

1 special education pupils for whom it may not be realistic or
2 desirable to expect achievement of initial mastery of the state
3 board recommended model core academic content standards objectives
4 or of a high school diploma.

5 (7) The state board shall make available to all nonpublic
6 schools in this state, as a resource for their consideration, the
7 model core academic curriculum content standards developed for
8 public schools pursuant to subsection (2) for the purpose of
9 assisting the governing body of a nonpublic school in developing
10 its core academic curriculum.

11 (8) Excluding special education pupils, pupils having a
12 learning disability, and pupils with extenuating circumstances as
13 determined by school officials, a pupil who does not score
14 satisfactorily on the 4th or 7th grade Michigan educational
15 assessment program reading test shall be provided special
16 assistance reasonably expected to enable the pupil to bring his or
17 her reading skills to grade level within 12 months.

18 (9) Any course that would have been considered a nonessential
19 elective course under Snyder v Charlotte School Dist, 421 Mich 517
20 (1984), on April 13, 1990 shall continue to be offered to resident
21 pupils of nonpublic schools on a shared time basis.

22 **(10) NOT LATER THAN AUGUST 1, 2006, THE STATE BOARD SHALL**
23 **REVISE THE RECOMMENDED MODEL CORE ACADEMIC CURRICULUM CONTENT**
24 **STANDARDS IN SCIENCE TO ENSURE THAT PUPILS WILL BE ABLE TO DO ALL**
25 **OF THE FOLLOWING:**

26 **(A) USE THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD TO CRITICALLY EVALUATE**
27 **SCIENTIFIC THEORIES INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE THEORIES OF**

1 GLOBAL WARMING AND EVOLUTION.

2 (B) USE RELEVANT SCIENTIFIC DATA TO ASSESS THE VALIDITY OF
3 THOSE THEORIES AND TO FORMULATE ARGUMENTS FOR OR AGAINST THOSE
4 THEORIES.