

H.542 / S.288 – CARE Bill: An Act to promote racially inclusive curriculum in schools

Sponsors: Rep. Tram Nguyen, Rep. Steven Ultrino, Sen. Adam Gomez

Summary:

This bill establishes a Racially Inclusive Curriculum Trust Fund, which will be used to develop and implement racially inclusive curriculum for primary and secondary education. Public schools will be required to teach accurate histories, writings, and contributions of historically marginalized racial and ethnic groups.

What this bill does:

- Creates the Racially Inclusive Curriculum Trust Fund, to be administered by the commissioner of elementary and secondary education, and funded through government appropriations and public and private gifts.
- Funds will be used to develop racially inclusive curriculum frameworks within multiple disciplines and within the history and social science learning standards, to help school districts implement this curriculum, and more.
- Public schools and school districts will have the opportunity to apply for grants, which can be used for professional development, reviewing curricula, working with higher education and other organizations, and collaboration with other districts.
- Underserved communities can be prioritized in the awarding of such funds.
- Instruction must be inclusive of all racial and ethnic groups in all public schools, at all grade levels and in all subjects.

Why this bill matters:

People of color are underrepresented and underserved in the current primary and secondary curriculum in Massachusetts. These inequities have had deleterious effects on the physical and mental health of BIPOC communities, as well as serving to exclude these groups from being seen and participating fully in society. It is imperative to increase accurate and thoughtful representation of marginalized groups in public school education, which is what this bill does.