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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-SECOND SESSION

H. F. No. 550

02/01/2021 Authored by Jordan, Acomb, Becker-Finn, Wazlawik, Keeler and others
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Education Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to education; requiring school districts and charter schools to provide
1.3 climate justice instruction; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes,
1.4 chapter 120B.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. [120B.25] CLIMATE JUSTICE INSTRUCTION.

1.7 Subdivision 1. Climate justice instruction. Climate justice means a framework that
1.8 puts people first and views the effects of climate change as interconnected with forms of
1.9 oppression connecting climate change to social and economic justice issues. School districts
1.10 and charter schools are required to provide climate justice instruction for students in grades
1.11 1 through 12 aligned with current scientific research and integrated into existing programs,
1.12 curriculum, or the general school environment of a district or charter school. The
1.13 commissioner, in consultation with the commissioner of the Pollution Control Agency,
1.14 environmental organizations, teachers, and students must, by July 1, 2022, and July 1 of
1.15 each even-numbered year thereafter, provide districts and charter schools with resources
1.16 compiled by Minnesota environmental advocates. Priority must be given to traditionally
1.17 underrepresented students and teachers. The resources must include:

1.18 (1) age-appropriate model learning activities for grades 1 through 12 that encompass
1.19 environmental research-based projects;

1.20 (2) a directory of resources for planning and implementing age-appropriate climate
1.21 change curriculum and instruction in grades 1 through 12 across core curriculum classes
1.22 that includes resources on climate change and its impacts, climate justice and equity, and
1.23 environmental stewardship; and

2.1 (3) information and resources on jobs related to creating a sustainable, resilient, and just
2.2 transition toward a green economy.

2.3 Subd. 2. Curriculum. Climate justice instruction may include the following themes:

2.4 (1) climate change is occurring and it is caused by human activities;

2.5 (2) all forms of life on the planet are at risk;

2.6 (3) the history and current causes of climate change that have disproportionate effects
2.7 on communities already facing systemic oppression, specifically Black, Indigenous, and
2.8 other persons of color; people with disabilities; and low-income communities globally;

2.9 (4) the history and current causes of climate change and its interconnected effects on
2.10 inequity, systemic oppression, and injustice;

2.11 (5) addressing climate change requires systemic change that promotes and makes
2.12 environmental stewardship accessible;

2.13 (6) encouraging students to understand their climate stories, how they connect to others
2.14 around the globe, and the collective power of sharing their stories; and

2.15 (7) there are solutions, and a growing number of economic and employment opportunities
2.16 in discovering more solutions, including implementing and maintaining projects replacing
2.17 fossil fuel use with renewable energy.

2.18 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.