



2023 South Dakota Legislature

House Bill 1070

Introduced by: **Representative** Odenbach

1 **An Act to create the Center for American Exceptionalism at Black Hills State**
 2 **University, make an appropriation therefor, and declare an emergency.**

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

4 **Section 1. That chapter 13-59 be amended with a NEW SECTION:**

5 The Board of Regents shall establish the Center for American Exceptionalism at
 6 Black Hills State University. The center shall make the state's public universities
 7 contributing, meaningful, and relevant partners in civics and social studies education by:

8 (1) Working to develop, distribute, and annually update a K-12 curriculum available to
 9 all public schools in American history and exceptionalism, explaining why America
 10 rose to greatness and how to keep it that way, and teaching students to balance
 11 critical thinking with love of country. The curriculum shall include a South Dakota
 12 history and American Indian tribes component focusing on the proud history of the
 13 indigenous peoples of South Dakota;

14 (2) Providing multi-media content speaking directly to state social studies standards;
 15 and

16 (3) Working with K-12 teachers, including providing professional development
 17 workshops, to help students:

18 (a) Understand American history, government institutions,
 19 constitutional rights, and cultural contexts in South Dakota and
 20 beyond;

21 (b) Develop personal agency and confidence to participate in the civic
 22 life of the state and nation through voting, volunteerism, informed
 23 discourse, and lifelong involvement; and

24 (c) Appreciate civil discourse, free speech, and engagement with people
 25 of all perspectives;

- 1 (4) Oversee the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution Program, as
2 developed by the Center for Civic Education, and its promotion and implementation
3 throughout public schools; and
- 4 (5) Develop, implement, and annually update a curriculum available to be taught in
5 two courses at the state's public colleges and universities:
- 6 (a) A course comparing communist/socialist countries to Western-style
7 democratic countries throughout history; and
- 8 (b) A course comparing command-style socialist economies to free-market
9 capitalist economies throughout history.

10 **Section 2. That chapter 13-59 be amended with a NEW SECTION:**

11 A nonprofit board of directors appointed by the president of Black Hills State
12 University shall govern the Center for American Exceptionalism and may seek all available
13 sources of funding.

14 On or before February first of each year, and at other times as it may deem in the
15 public interest, the Center for American Exceptionalism shall report to legislative
16 committees with jurisdiction over education with respect to its operations in the previous
17 fiscal year.

18 **Section 3.** There is hereby appropriated from the general fund the sum of \$150,000 to the
19 Board of Regents for the purpose of establishing the Center for American Exceptionalism
20 established in this Act.

21 **Section 4.** The executive director of the Board of Regents shall approve vouchers and the
22 state auditor shall draw warrants to pay expenditures authorized by this Act.

23 **Section 5.** Any amounts appropriated in this Act not lawfully expended or obligated shall
24 revert in accordance with the procedures prescribed in chapter 4-8.

25 **Section 6.** Whereas, this Act is necessary for the support of the state government and its
26 existing public institutions, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, and this Act shall be in
27 full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.