

1 HB558
2 185820-1
3 By Representatives Moore (B), Ingram, Ledbetter, Butler,
4 Farley and Williams (JW)
5 RFD: Education Policy
6 First Read: 25-APR-17

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8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, the State Board of
9 Education is required to establish curriculum
10 standards for all K-12 public schools.

11 This bill would create the Alabama
12 Traditional Education Standards Act.

13 This bill would terminate the adoption and
14 implementation of the standards commonly known as
15 the Common Core Standards, also known as the
16 Alabama College and Career Ready Standards (ACCRS).

17 This bill would direct the State Board of
18 Education to replace the Common Core Standards for
19 Math and English Language Arts with the courses of
20 study for Math and English Language Arts in place
21 immediately prior to adoption of the Common Core
22 Standards.

23 This bill would further protect state and
24 local control of education by restricting the State
25 Board of Education from adopting or implementing
26 any other national standards from any source or

1 requiring the use of any assessments aligned with
2 them.

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4 A BILL
5 TO BE ENTITLED
6 AN ACT

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8 Relating to public education; to create the Alabama
9 Traditional Education Standards Act; to terminate the adoption
10 and implementation of the standards commonly known as the
11 Common Core Standards, also known as the Alabama College and
12 Career Ready Standards, in K-12 public schools; and to direct
13 the State Board of Education to replace the Common Core
14 Standards for Math and English Language Arts with the courses
15 of study in place immediately prior to adoption of the Common
16 Core Standards.

17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

18 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited
19 as the Alabama Traditional Education Standards Act.

20 Section 2. (a) The Legislature finds that the State
21 Board of Education, in the fall of 2013, voted to rescind the
22 Memorandum of Agreement that involved the State of Alabama in
23 adopting the Common Core Standards, which ceded control of
24 Alabama's standards to entities other than the state and local
25 educational agencies, and declared that the collection of
26 personal data concerning students of Alabama public schools
27 would not be collected or compiled.

1 (b) In order to codify the intent of the board, the
2 State of Alabama hereby terminates all plans, programs,
3 activities, efforts, and expenditures relative to the
4 implementation of the educational initiative commonly referred
5 to as the Common Core State Standards, or any derivative or
6 permutation thereof, including, but not limited to, the
7 Alabama College and Career Ready Standards which have been
8 adopted or may be adopted by the board or its employees,
9 including any assessments, data collection, and instructions
10 based on or involving any such standard or protocol.

11 (c) As part of the transition to an improved Alabama
12 standards process, the board shall replace the current Common
13 Core Standards, also known as the Alabama College and Career
14 Ready Standards, with the courses of study for Math in place
15 until May 2011, and for English Language Arts in place until
16 May 2012, both of which were used in classrooms immediately
17 prior to implementation of the Common Core Standards. These
18 standards shall be known as the Transition Standards and shall
19 remain in effect for the 2016-2017 school year.

20 (d) Following existing state law regarding the
21 process for revision of the Alabama Courses of Study, the
22 State Board of Education shall proceed with updating the
23 Transition Standards, based upon the pre-Common Core Standards
24 of the state, whose national scores ranked no less than the
25 top 10 percent in the nation. The resulting improved standards
26 for Math and English Language Arts shall begin in the

1 2017-2018 school year and shall be known as the Alabama Ahead
2 Standards.

3 (e) As part of the termination process, the
4 Legislature directs the State Superintendant of Education, the
5 State Board of Education, and any other public authority to
6 terminate the flexibility waiver agreement with the U.S.
7 Department of Education, pertaining to the federal Elementary
8 and Secondary Education Act, which includes the adoption of
9 the Common Core Standards, also known as the Alabama College
10 and Career Ready Standards, and other areas of federal control
11 of the educational process.

12 (f) The Legislature further prohibits the adoption
13 or implementation of any national standards from any source,
14 or the use of any assessments aligned with them, that cede
15 control of Alabama educational standards in any manner,
16 including, but not limited to, the Next Generation Science
17 Standards, History Standards, Social Studies Standards, or
18 Sexuality Standards.

19 (g) The state shall retain sole control over the
20 development, establishment, and revision of K-12 course of
21 study standards.

22 (h) Any education entity or any state official shall
23 not join any consortium or any other organization when
24 participation in that consortium or organization would cede
25 any measure of control over any aspect of Alabama public
26 education to any such entity.

1 Section 3. Any citizen of the State of Alabama shall
2 have standing in the courts of Alabama to bring suit to ensure
3 the enforcement of this act.

4 Section 4. This act shall become effective
5 immediately following its passage and approval by the
6 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.