For An Act To Be Entitled

"AN ACT REQUIRING THE DIRECTOR OF THE GENERAL EDUCATION DIVISION OF THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO OVERSEE DISSEMINATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS AND TRAINING FOR THE TEACHING OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY IN GRADES K-12 IN ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND TRAINING IN RACIAL AND ETHNIC AWARENESS AND SENSITIVITY FOR TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Subtitle

"REQUIRING THE DIRECTOR OF THE GENERAL EDUCATION DIVISION OF THE DEPT. OF EDUCATION TO OVERSEE DISSEMINATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS FOR AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY AND TRAINING IN RACIAL AND ETHNIC AWARENESS."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. (a)(1) The Director of the General Education Division of the Arkansas Department of Education shall establish a task force to select instructional resource materials appropriate for teaching African-American history in all grade clusters in kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) in the public schools.

(2) Such task force shall be known as the Black History Task Force, consisting of seven (7) members appointed by the chairman of the Black History Advisory Committee of the Arkansas History Commission, and shall further advise the director in the selection of:
(A) Training components for using the instructional resource materials; and
(B) Training components for assisting teachers and administrators in developing a greater awareness of ethnic and racial differences, improving interpersonal skills, and enhancing racial harmony.

(b)(1) The director shall ensure that selection of instructional resource materials and training components is completed during the 1997-98 school year and that all materials are provided to the school districts and all training concluded by no later than August 1, 1999.

(2) All training shall be delivered through the statewide system of education service cooperatives and the three (3) Pulaski County school districts.

(c) The director shall report annually to the Black History Advisory Committee of the Arkansas History Commission regarding implementation of this act.

(d) The Department of Education is authorized to promulgate regulations to carry out the provisions of this act and shall distribute to each local school district a copy of such regulations.

(e) Dissemination of materials and all training required under this act shall be contingent upon the availability of funds appropriated for such purposes.

SECTION 2. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

SECTION 3. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.

SECTION 4. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

APPROVED: 3-03-97