



## 104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB2997

Introduced 2/6/2025, by Rep. Abdelnasser Rashid

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/27-23.19 new

Amends the Courses of Study Article of the School Code. Provides that, beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, every public elementary school and high school shall include in its curriculum a unit of instruction studying the events of Arab American history, including the history of Arab Americans in the State and the Midwest, as well as the contributions of Arab Americans from the 19th century onward. Provides that the State Superintendent of Education may prepare and make available to all school boards instructional materials, including those established by the Public Broadcasting Service, that may be used as guidelines for the development of the unit of instruction. Provides that each school board shall determine the minimum amount of instructional time that qualifies as a unit of instruction. Provides that the regional superintendent of schools shall monitor a school district's compliance with the curricular requirements during the regional superintendent's annual compliance visit. Provides that a school may meet the requirements through an online program or course. Effective immediately.

LRB104 08469 LNS 18521 b

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by adding Section  
5 27-23.19 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/27-23.19 new)

7 Sec. 27-23.19. Arab American History Study.

8 (a) Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, every public  
9 elementary school and high school shall include in its  
10 curriculum a unit of instruction studying the events of Arab  
11 American history, including the history of Arab Americans in  
12 this State and the Midwest, as well as the contributions of  
13 Arab Americans from the 19th century onward. These events  
14 shall include the contributions made by individual Arab  
15 Americans in government and the arts, humanities, and  
16 sciences, as well as the contributions of Arab American  
17 communities to the economic, cultural, social, and political  
18 development of the United States. The studying of this  
19 material shall constitute an affirmation by students of their  
20 commitment to respect the dignity of all races and peoples and  
21 to forever eschew every form of discrimination in their lives  
22 and careers.

23 (b) The State Superintendent of Education may prepare and

1 make available to all school boards instructional materials,  
2 including those established by the Public Broadcasting  
3 Service, that may be used as guidelines for the development of  
4 a unit of instruction under this Section. However, each school  
5 board shall itself determine the minimum amount of  
6 instructional time that qualifies as a unit of instruction  
7 satisfying the requirements of this Section.

8 (c) The regional superintendent of schools shall monitor a  
9 school district's compliance with this Section's curricular  
10 requirements during the regional superintendent's annual  
11 compliance visit.

12 (d) A school may meet the requirements of this Section  
13 through an online program or course.

14 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
15 becoming law.