



ROSENSTEIN, FIST & RINGOLD

RED BANNER UPDATE

Date: May 3, 2023

Re: HB 1397

Signed: May 2, 2023

Effective: November 1, 2023

Topic: **Civil Rights Curriculum**

Summary: This bill creates a new law (70 O.S. § 11-103) requiring the State Department of Education to develop and provide to “every public elementary school and high school” curriculum studying the events of the civil rights movement from 1954 to 1968, the natural law and natural rights principles that the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., drew from that informed his leadership of the civil rights movement, and the tactics and strategies of nonviolent resistance that he championed in response to the Jim Crow laws of that era.

The curriculum may be taught as a stand-alone unit of instruction or may be integrated into one or more existing courses of study.

The State Department shall also identify resources and provide exemplar units or sample lesson plans designed to help teachers provide instruction on the subject matter of the curriculum.

For more information on this new law, please visit the firm’s website to view the signed bill.

Legal counsel does not anticipate creating a new policy or amending any existing policy in response to this legislation.