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MEMORANDUM

To: Chairperson Estes
Members of the House Committee on Education

From: The Office of Revisor of Statutes

Date: February 3, 2026

Subject: HB 2428 – Curriculum and freshmen orientation program requirements at postsecondary educational institutions.

House Bill No. 2428 (HB 2428) would enact new law governing the curriculum and policies at postsecondary educational institution regarding instruction on diversity, equality and inclusion (DEI), critical race theory (CRT), and American civics. The bill also provides governance on freshmen orientation programs.

Section 1 of HB 2428 generally prohibits postsecondary educational institutions from requiring students to enroll in a DEI-CRT related course to earn a degree. It also prohibits institutions, administration, or faculty from requiring or incentivizing the use of DEI-CRT related courses as a condition for course approval or faculty job performance. The bill provides an exception for courses of study that primarily focus on racial, ethnic, or gender studies.

Section 2 of HB 2428 would require each four-year institution to require completion of a course on the study of American institutions for a bachelor's degree beginning in school year 2027-2028. The course must include a study of the United States form of government and the United States Constitution, the use of founding documents, such as the Declaration of Independent and the Federalist Papers, and a comparative discussion on political ideologies such as communism and totalitarianism.

Section 3 of HB 2428 would require that all freshmen orientation programs include programming on the 1st Amendment and the importance of free speech. Additionally, any DEI-CRT related programming must be offered along with a selection of programs on other topics that are equally promoted by the institution. Finally, each institution must make its DEI-CRT related materials available on its website to the extent permitted by copyright law.

HB 2428 defines DEI-CRT related courses, content, and practices in Section 1. Those definitions generally apply to Sections 2 and 3 as well.

If enacted, HB 2428 would become effective on July 1, 2026.