

1 SB415  
2 186562-1  
3 By Senators Smith, Holley, Albritton, Allen, Bussman,  
4 Chambliss, Sanford, Pittman, Glover, Brewbaker, Stutts,  
5 Whatley and Melson  
6 RFD: Education and Youth Affairs  
7 First Read: 04-MAY-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 terminate the adoption and  
12 implementation of the standards commonly known as  
13 the Common Core Standards, also known as the  
14 Alabama College and Career Ready Standards (ACCRS).

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

21 This bill would further protect state and  
22 local control of education by restricting the State  
23 Board of Education from adopting or implementing  
24 any other national standards from any source or  
25 requiring the use of any assessments aligned with  
26 them.

1 A BILL  
2 TO BE ENTITLED  
3 AN ACT

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

13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

14 Section 1. (a) The Legislature finds that the State  
15 Board of Education, in the fall of 2013, voted to rescind the  
16 Memorandum of Agreement that involved the State of Alabama in  
17 adopting the Common Core Standards, which ceded control of  
18 Alabama's standards to entities other than the state and local  
19 educational agencies, and declared that the collection of  
20 personal data concerning students of Alabama public schools  
21 would not be collected or compiled.

22 (b) In order to codify the intent of the board, the  
23 State of Alabama hereby terminates all plans, programs,  
24 activities, efforts, and expenditures relative to the  
25 implementation of the educational initiative commonly referred  
26 to as the Common Core State Standards, or any derivative or  
27 permutation thereof, including, but not limited to, the

1 Alabama College and Career Ready Standards which have been  
2 adopted or may be adopted by the board or its employees,  
3 including any assessments, data collection, and instructions  
4 based on or involving any such standard or protocol.

5 (c) As part of the transition to an improved Alabama  
6 standards process, the board shall replace the current Common  
7 Core Standards, also known as the Alabama College and Career  
8 Ready Standards, with the courses of study for Math in place  
9 until May 2011, and for English Language Arts in place until  
10 May 2012, both of which were used in classrooms immediately  
11 prior to implementation of the Common Core Standards. These  
12 standards shall be known as the Transition Standards and shall  
13 be in effect for the 2017-2018 school year.

14 (d) Following existing state law regarding the  
15 process for revision of the Alabama Courses of Study, the  
16 State Board of Education shall proceed with updating the  
17 Transition Standards, based upon the pre-Common Core Standards  
18 of the state, whose national scores ranked no less than the  
19 top 10 percent in the nation. The resulting improved standards  
20 for Math and English Language Arts shall begin in the  
21 2018-2019 school year and shall be known as the Alabama Ahead  
22 Standards.

23 (e) As part of the termination process, the  
24 Legislature directs the State Superintendent of Education, the  
25 State Board of Education, and any other public authority to  
26 terminate the flexibility waiver agreement with the U.S.  
27 Department of Education, pertaining to the federal Elementary

1 and Secondary Education Act, which includes the adoption of  
2 the Common Core Standards, also known as the Alabama College  
3 and Career Ready Standards, and other areas of federal control  
4 of the educational process.

5 (f) The Legislature further prohibits the adoption  
6 or implementation of any national standards from any source,  
7 or the use of any assessments aligned with them, that cede  
8 control of Alabama educational standards in any manner,  
9 including, but not limited to, the Next Generation Science  
10 Standards, History Standards, Social Studies Standards, or  
11 Sexuality Standards.

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

15 (h) Any education entity or any state official shall  
16 not join any consortium or any other organization when  
17 participation in that consortium or organization would cede  
18 any measure of control over any aspect of Alabama public  
19 education to any such entity.

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

23 Section 3. This act shall become effective  
24 immediately following its passage and approval by the  
25 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.