

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to civic literacy; creating s.
3 683.1455, F.S.; designating the month of September
4 annually as "American Founders' Month"; authorizing
5 the Governor to annually issue a proclamation
6 containing specified information; amending s. 1000.03,
7 F.S.; revising the priorities of Florida's K-20
8 education system to include civic literacy; amending
9 s. 1001.215, F.S.; revising the duties of the Just
10 Read, Florida! Office to include developing and
11 providing access to certain resources for elementary
12 schools; amending s. 1003.44, F.S.; encouraging public
13 schools to coordinate certain instruction with
14 American Founders' Month; amending s. 1007.25, F.S.;
15 requiring postsecondary students to demonstrate
16 competency in civic literacy and providing
17 requirements therefor; providing for the appointment
18 of a faculty committee; requiring the committee to
19 develop or revise certain courses and establish
20 specified course competencies; amending ss. 943.22 and
21 1001.64, F.S.; conforming cross-references; providing
22 an effective date.

23
24 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
25

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26 Section 1. Section 683.1455, Florida Statutes, is created
27 to read:

28 683.1455 American Founders' Month.-

29 (1) The month of September of each year is designated as
30 "American Founders' Month."

31 (2) The Governor may annually issue a proclamation
32 designating the month of September as "American Founders' Month"
33 and urging all civic, fraternal, and religious organizations and
34 public and private educational institutions to recognize and
35 observe this occasion through appropriate programs, meetings,
36 services, or celebrations in which state, county, and local
37 governmental officials are invited to participate.

38 Section 2. Paragraphs (c) through (g) of subsection (5) of
39 section 1000.03, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as
40 paragraphs (d) through (h), respectively, and a new paragraph
41 (c) is added to that subsection to read:

42 1000.03 Function, mission, and goals of the Florida K-20
43 education system.-

44 (5) The priorities of Florida's K-20 education system
45 include:

46 (c) Civic literacy.-Students are prepared to become
47 civically engaged and knowledgeable adults who make positive
48 contributions to their communities.

49 Section 3. Subsections (4) through (11) of section
50 1001.215, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (5)

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51 through (12), respectively, and a new subsection (4) is added to
52 that section to read:

53 1001.215 Just Read, Florida! Office.—There is created in
54 the Department of Education the Just Read, Florida! Office. The
55 office shall be fully accountable to the Commissioner of
56 Education and shall:

57 (4) Develop and provide access to sequenced, content-rich
58 curriculum programming, instructional practices, and resources
59 that help elementary schools use state-adopted instructional
60 materials to increase students' background knowledge and
61 literacy skills, including student attainment of the Next
62 Generation Sunshine State Standards for social studies, science,
63 and the arts.

64 Section 4. Subsection (3) is added to section 1003.44,
65 Florida Statutes, to read:

66 1003.44 Patriotic programs; rules.—

67 (3) All public schools in the state, including charter
68 schools, are encouraged to coordinate, at all grade levels,
69 instruction related to our nation's founding fathers with
70 "American Founders' Month" pursuant to s. 683.1455.

71 Section 5. Subsections (4) through (11) of section
72 1007.25, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (5)
73 through (12), respectively, and a new subsection (4) is added to
74 that section to read:

75 1007.25 General education courses; common prerequisites;

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76 | other degree requirements.—

77 | (4) Beginning with students initially entering a Florida
78 | College System institution or state university in the 2018-2019
79 | school year and thereafter, each student must demonstrate
80 | competency in civic literacy. Students must have the option to
81 | demonstrate competency through successful completion of a civic
82 | literacy course or by achieving a passing score on an assessment
83 | adopted in rule by the State Board of Education or in regulation
84 | by the Board of Governors, as applicable. The chair of the State
85 | Board of Education and the chair of the Board of Governors, or
86 | their respective designees, shall jointly appoint a faculty
87 | committee to:

88 | (a) Develop a new course in civic literacy or revise an
89 | existing general education core course to include civic
90 | literacy.

91 | (b) Establish course competencies and identify outcomes
92 | that include, at a minimum, an understanding of the basic
93 | principles of American democracy and how they are applied in our
94 | republican form of government, an understanding of the United
95 | States Constitution, knowledge of the founding documents and how
96 | they have shaped the nature and functions of our institutions of
97 | self-governance, and an understanding of landmark Supreme Court
98 | cases and their impact on law and society.

99 | Section 6. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section
100 | 943.22, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

101 943.22 Salary incentive program for full-time officers.—

102 (1) For the purpose of this section, the term:

103 (c) "Community college degree or equivalent" means
 104 graduation from an accredited community college or having been
 105 granted a degree pursuant to s. 1007.25(11) ~~s. 1007.25(10)~~ or
 106 successful completion of 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours
 107 and eligibility to receive an associate degree from an
 108 accredited college, university, or community college.

109 Section 7. Subsection (7) and paragraph (d) of subsection
 110 (8) of section 1001.64, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

111 1001.64 Florida College System institution boards of
 112 trustees; powers and duties.—

113 (7) Each board of trustees has responsibility for:
 114 ensuring that students have access to general education courses
 115 as identified in rule; requiring no more than 60 semester hours
 116 of degree program coursework, including 36 semester hours of
 117 general education coursework, for an associate in arts degree;
 118 notifying students that earned hours in excess of 60 semester
 119 hours may not be accepted by state universities; notifying
 120 students of unique program prerequisites; and ensuring that
 121 degree program coursework beyond general education coursework is
 122 consistent with degree program prerequisite requirements adopted
 123 pursuant to s. 1007.25(6) ~~s. 1007.25(5)~~.

124 (8) Each board of trustees has authority for policies
 125 related to students, enrollment of students, student records,

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126 | student activities, financial assistance, and other student
127 | services.

128 | (d) Boards of trustees shall identify their general
129 | education curricula pursuant to s. 1007.25(7) ~~s. 1007.25(6)~~.

130 | Section 8. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.