

By the Committee on Education and Senator Forman

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to public school curricula;
amending s. 233.061, F.S.; including a secular
character-development program in required
public school instruction in the elementary
schools; amending s. 233.0612, F.S.; deleting a
provision encouraging school boards to
institute such programs; providing an effective
date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Paragraph (q) is added to subsection (2) of
section 233.061, Florida Statutes, 1998 Supplement, to read:

233.061 Required instruction.--

(2) Members of the instructional staff of the public
schools, subject to the rules and regulations of the
commissioner, the state board, and the school board, shall
teach efficiently and faithfully, using the books and
materials required, following the prescribed courses of study,
and employing approved methods of instruction, the following:

(q) A character-development program, such as Character
Counts or a like curriculum, in the elementary schools. Such a
program must be secular in nature and must stress such
character qualities as attentiveness, patience, and
initiative.

Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 233.0612, Florida
Statutes, 1998 Supplement, is amended to read:

233.0612 Authorized instruction.--Each school district
may provide students with programs and instruction at the

