

**STORAGE NAME:** h0341.grr

**DATE:** April 7, 2000

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
AS REVISED BY THE COMMITTEE ON  
GOVERNMENTAL RULES & REGULATIONS  
ANALYSIS**

**BILL #:** HB 341

**RELATING TO:** Courses of Study

**SPONSOR(S):** Representatives Pruitt and Argenio

**TIED BILL(S):**

**ORIGINATING COMMITTEE(S)/COMMITTEE(S) OF REFERENCE:**

- (1) EDUCATION INNOVATION YEAS 10 NAYS 0
  - (2) GOVERNMENTAL RULES & REGULATIONS
  - (3) EDUCATION APPROPRIATION
  - (4)
  - (5)
- 

**I. SUMMARY:**

HB 341 requires public schools to include the following historic information in required public school instruction:

- *History* of the United States Constitution
- Content and significance of Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, the Emancipation Proclamation, and George Washington's Farewell Address
- Content and history of the Florida Constitution

The new required instruction items *and* the existing required instruction items must be provided in at least 2 grade levels in both elementary school and high school. The bill directs the State Board of Education to adopt rules to implement the requirement of providing the following required instruction in 2 grade levels in both elementary school and high school:

- Declaration of Independence
- Arguments in support of a republican form of government
- History and essentials of the United States Constitution and how it provides the structure of our government
- Content and significance of Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, the Emancipation Proclamation, and George Washington's Farewell Address
- Content and history of the Florida Constitution
- Flag education, including proper display and salute
- Elements of civil governments

The act takes effect upon becoming a law, and the bill has no fiscal impact on the state.

II. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS:

A. DOES THE BILL SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:

- |                                   |                              |                                        |                                         |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1. <u>Less Government</u>         | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 2. <u>Lower Taxes</u>             | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>            | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. <u>Individual Freedom</u>      | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>            | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. <u>Personal Responsibility</u> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>            | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. <u>Family Empowerment</u>      | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>            | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

For any principle that received a "no" above, please explain:

Less Government

The bill requires districts, schools, and teachers to add to their curriculum the *history* of the United States Constitution along with the contents and significance of Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, the Emancipation Proclamation, George Washington's Farewell Address, and the content and history of the Constitution of the State Of Florida. The bill requires that this new instruction, and several items on the existing list of required instruction be provided in at least two grade levels during elementary school and two grade levels during high school. The State Board of Education is required to adopt rules to implement this provision.

B. PRESENT SITUATION:

**Required Instruction**

Section 233.061(1), F.S., requires each school district to provide courses in the following subject areas: reading and other language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, foreign languages, health and physical education, and the arts. Furthermore, 233.061(2), F.S., requires teaching the following:

- Declaration of Independence
- Arguments in support of a republican form of government
- United States Constitution and its relation to the structure of our government
- Flag education, including proper display and salute
- Elements of civil governments
- History of the Holocaust
- History of African Americans
- Elementary principles of agriculture
- The effects of alcohol and narcotics upon the human body
- Kindness to animals
- The history of the state
- Conservation of natural resources
- Comprehensive health education
- The study of Hispanic contributions to the United States
- The study of women's contributions to the United States

- Character development programs
- Additional materials, subjects, courses, or fields as prescribed by law or rule

The Florida Legislature has amended the above list several times. Past changes include:

- 1999 Requirement of Hispanic and women's contributions to the United States
- 1997 Requirement that civil government instruction include the primary functions and inter-relationships between various levels of government; inclusion of comprehensive health education; and removal of the specific requirement for teaching effects of alcohol and narcotics
- 1994 Requirement for instruction in history of African-Americans and of the Holocaust

Although the bill does not require new textbooks to incorporate these studies into the curriculum, publishers of textbooks do take into consideration required curriculums when they determine what to include in textbooks.

#### C. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

The bill adds to the list of the required instructional areas the history of the United States Constitution along with the contents and significance of Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, the Emancipation Proclamation, George Washington's Farewell Address, and the content and history of the Constitution of the State Of Florida. This instruction is required to be provided in at least two grade levels in both elementary school and high school. The bill requires the State Board of Education to adopt rules according to the statutory guidelines giving rulemaking authority. The rules are to implement the provision of offering the following required instruction items in at least two grade levels in both elementary school and high school.

- Declaration of Independence
- Arguments in support of a republican form of government
- History and essentials of the United States Constitution and how it provides the structure of our government
- Content and significance of Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, the Emancipation Proclamation, and George Washington's Farewell Address
- Content and history of the Florida Constitution
- Flag education, including proper display and salute
- Elements of civil governments

#### D. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS:

This section need be completed only in the discretion of the Committee.

### III. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT:

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

N/A

2. Expenditures:

N/A

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

N/A

2. Expenditures:

N/A

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

N/A

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

N/A

IV. CONSEQUENCES OF ARTICLE VII, SECTION 18 OF THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTION:

A. APPLICABILITY OF THE MANDATES PROVISION:

This bill does not require counties or municipalities to expend funds.

B. REDUCTION OF REVENUE RAISING AUTHORITY:

This bill does not reduce the authority of counties or municipalities to raise revenue.

C. REDUCTION OF STATE TAX SHARED WITH COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES:

This bill does not reduce the percentage of state tax shared with counties and municipalities.

V. COMMENTS:

**STORAGE NAME:** h0341.grr

**DATE:** April 7, 2000

**PAGE 5**

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

N/A

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

The bill requires the State Board of Education to adopt rules to implement the provisions of the act.

C. OTHER COMMENTS:

N/A

VI. AMENDMENTS OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES:

N/A

VII. SIGNATURES:

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION INNOVATION:

Prepared by:

Staff Director:

Alex Amengual

Ouida Ashworth

AS REVISED BY THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL RULES & REGULATIONS:

Prepared by:

Staff Director:

Shari Z. Whittier

David M. Greenbaum