

By Representative Mack

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to required instruction in the  
3           public schools; amending s. 233.061, F.S.;  
4           providing that the character-development  
5           program shall be required instruction in  
6           kindergarten through grade 12; requiring  
7           curriculum development and approval; amending  
8           s. 233.0612, F.S., relating to authorized  
9           instruction, to conform; providing effective  
10          dates.

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

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14           Section 1. Paragraph (q) of subsection (2) of section  
15 233.061, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

16           233.061 Required instruction.--

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

23           (q) A character-development program in the elementary  
24 schools, similar to Character First or Character Counts. Such  
25 a program must be secular in nature and must stress such  
26 character qualities as attentiveness, patience, and  
27 initiative. Beginning in school year 2004-2005, the  
28 character-development program shall be required in  
29 kindergarten through grade 12. Each district school board  
30 shall develop a curriculum for the character-development  
31 program which shall be submitted to the Department of

1 Education for approval. The character-development curriculum  
2 shall stress the qualities of patriotism, responsibility,  
3 citizenship, kindness, respect, honesty, self-control,  
4 tolerance, and cooperation.

5 Section 2. Effective July 1, 2004, subsection (1) of  
6 section 233.0612, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

7 233.0612 Authorized instruction.--Each school district  
8 may provide students with programs and instruction at the  
9 appropriate grade levels in areas including, but not limited  
10 to, the following:

11 (1) ~~Character development, Ethics,~~and law education.

12 Section 3. Except as otherwise provided herein, this  
13 act shall take effect July 1, 2002.

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16 HOUSE SUMMARY

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18 Provides that the character-development program in the  
19 public schools shall be required instruction in  
20 kindergarten through grade 12 beginning in school year  
21 2004-2005. Requires curriculum development and approval.

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