

HB 0709

2004

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to course requirements for students in
 3 community colleges; amending s. 1001.02, F.S.; providing
 4 that the required credit hours in general education
 5 courses must include civics instruction that focuses on
 6 North American national government; providing an effective
 7 date.

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

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 11 Section 1. Paragraph (d) of subsection (9) of section
 12 1001.02, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

13 1001.02 General powers of State Board of Education.--

14 (9) The State Board of Education shall prescribe minimum
 15 standards, definitions, and guidelines for community colleges
 16 and state universities that will ensure the quality of
 17 education, coordination among the community colleges and state
 18 universities, and efficient progress toward accomplishing the
 19 community college and state university mission. At a minimum,
 20 these rules must address:

21 (d) Provisions for curriculum development, graduation
 22 requirements, college calendars, and program service areas.

23 These provisions must include rules that:

24 1. Provide for the award of an associate in arts degree to
 25 a student who successfully completes 60 semester credit hours at
 26 the community college.

27 2. Require all of the credits accepted for the associate
 28 in arts degree to be in the statewide course numbering system as

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29 credits toward a baccalaureate degree offered by a state
30 university.

31 3. Require no more than 36 semester credit hours in
32 general education courses in the subject areas of communication,
33 mathematics, social sciences, humanities, and natural sciences.
34 At least one of the courses a student must take to satisfy the
35 social sciences requirement must include civics instruction that
36 focuses on North American national government. The required
37 civics instruction applies to each student who enrolls in a
38 community college for the first time in the fall semester of
39 2004 or thereafter.

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41 The rules should encourage community colleges to enter into
42 agreements with state universities that allow community college
43 students to complete upper-division-level courses at a community
44 college. An agreement may provide for concurrent enrollment at
45 the community college and the state university and may authorize
46 the community college to offer an upper-division-level course or
47 distance learning.

48 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004.