

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to public K-12 educational instruction;
 3 amending s. 1003.42, F.S.; revising provisions relating to
 4 required instruction and courses of study in the public
 5 schools; including study of the history of the United
 6 States and free enterprise; requiring standards and
 7 assessments adopted by the State Board of Education to
 8 conform; providing requirements for the teaching and
 9 assessment of the history of the United States; amending
 10 s. 1003.43, F.S., relating to general requirements for
 11 high school graduation; including study of the Declaration
 12 of Independence; amending s. 1002.20, F.S.; correcting a
 13 cross reference; providing an effective date.

14
 15 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

16
 17 Section 1. Section 1003.42, Florida Statutes, is amended
 18 to read:

19 1003.42 Required instruction.--

20 (1) Each district school board shall provide all courses
 21 required for high school graduation and appropriate instruction
 22 designed to ensure that students meet State Board of Education
 23 adopted standards in the following subject areas: reading and
 24 other language arts, mathematics, science, social studies,
 25 foreign languages, health and physical education, and the arts.

26 (2) All members of the instructional staff of the public
 27 schools, ~~subject to the rules of the State Board of Education~~
 28 ~~and the district school board,~~ shall teach efficiently and

29 faithfully, using the books and materials required that meet the
 30 highest standards for professionalism and historic accuracy,
 31 following the prescribed courses of study, and employing
 32 approved methods of instruction, the following:

33 (a) The history and content of the Declaration of
 34 Independence, including national sovereignty, natural law, self-
 35 evident truth, equality of all persons, limited government,
 36 popular sovereignty, and God-given, inalienable rights of life,
 37 liberty, and property, and how it forms the philosophical
 38 foundation of our government.

39 (b) The history, meaning, significance, and effect of the
 40 provisions of the Constitution of the United States and
 41 amendments thereto, with emphasis on each of the 10 amendments
 42 that make up the Bill of Rights and how the constitution
 43 provides the structure of our government.

44 (c) The history of the state and the State Constitution.

45 (d)(b) The most important arguments in support of adopting
 46 our republican form of government, as they are embodied in the
 47 most important of the Federalist Papers.

48 ~~(c) The essentials of the United States Constitution and~~
 49 ~~how it provides the structure of our government.~~

50 (e)(d) Flag education, including proper flag display and
 51 flag salute.

52 (f)(e) The elements of United States civil government,
 53 including the primary functions of and interrelationships
 54 between the Federal Government, the state, and its counties,
 55 municipalities, school districts, and special districts.

56 (g) The history of the United States, including the period

57 of discovery, early colonies, the War for Independence, the
 58 Civil War, the expansion of the United States to its present
 59 boundaries, the world wars, and the civil rights movement to the
 60 present. The history of the United States shall be taught as
 61 genuine history and shall not follow the revisionist or
 62 postmodernist viewpoints of relative truth. American history
 63 shall be viewed as factual, not as constructed, shall be viewed
 64 as knowable, teachable, and testable, and shall be defined as
 65 the creation of a new nation based largely on the universal
 66 principles stated in the Declaration of Independence.

67 (h)~~(f)~~ The history of the Holocaust (1933-1945), the
 68 systematic, planned annihilation of European Jews and other
 69 groups by Nazi Germany, a watershed event in the history of
 70 humanity, to be taught in a manner that leads to an
 71 investigation of human behavior, an understanding of the
 72 ramifications of prejudice, racism, and stereotyping, and an
 73 examination of what it means to be a responsible and respectful
 74 person, for the purposes of encouraging tolerance of racial,
 75 ethnic, and religious diversity in a pluralistic society and for
 76 nurturing and protecting democratic values and institutions.

77 (i)~~(g)~~ The history of African Americans, including the
 78 history of African peoples before the political conflicts that
 79 led to the development of slavery, the passage to America, the
 80 enslavement experience, abolition, and the contributions of
 81 African Americans to society.

82 (j)~~(h)~~ The elementary principles of agriculture.

83 (k)~~(i)~~ The true effects of all alcoholic and intoxicating
 84 liquors and beverages and narcotics upon the human body and
 85 mind.

86 (l)~~(j)~~ Kindness to animals.

87 ~~(k) The history of the state.~~

88 (m)~~(l)~~ The conservation of natural resources.

89 (n)~~(m)~~ Comprehensive health education that addresses
 90 concepts of community health; consumer health; environmental
 91 health; family life, including an awareness of the benefits of
 92 sexual abstinence as the expected standard and the consequences
 93 of teenage pregnancy; ~~mental and emotional health;~~ injury
 94 prevention and safety; nutrition; personal health; prevention
 95 and control of disease; and substance use and abuse.

96 (o)~~(n)~~ Such additional materials, subjects, courses, or
 97 fields in such grades as are prescribed by law or by rules of
 98 the State Board of Education and the district school board in
 99 fulfilling the requirements of law.

100 (p)~~(o)~~ The study of Hispanic contributions to the United
 101 States.

102 (q)~~(p)~~ The study of women's contributions to the United
 103 States.

104 (r) The nature and importance of free enterprise to the
 105 United States economy.

106 (s)~~(q)~~ A character-development program in the elementary
 107 schools, similar to Character First or Character Counts, which
 108 is secular in nature ~~and stresses such character qualities as~~
 109 ~~attentiveness, patience, and initiative.~~ Beginning in school
 110 year 2004-2005, the character-development program shall be

111 required in kindergarten through grade 12. Each district school
 112 board shall develop or adopt a curriculum for the character-
 113 development program that shall be submitted to the department
 114 for approval. The character-development curriculum shall stress
 115 the qualities of patriotism; responsibility; citizenship; the
 116 Golden Rule; kindness; respect for authority, human life,
 117 liberty, and personal property; honesty; abstinence until
 118 marriage; charity; self-control; racial, ethnic, and religious
 119 tolerance; and cooperation.

120 ~~(t)(r)~~ In order to encourage patriotism, the sacrifices
 121 that veterans have made in serving our country and protecting
 122 democratic values worldwide. Such instruction must occur on or
 123 before Veterans' Day and Memorial Day. Members of the
 124 instructional staff are encouraged to use the assistance of
 125 local veterans when practicable.

126
 127 Standards and assessments adopted by the State Board of
 128 Education shall be based on, and conform to, the requirements of
 129 this subsection.

130 (3) Each district school board shall require that:

131 (a) United States history, including the provisions of
 132 paragraphs (2)(a)-(g), be taught in at least two grade levels in
 133 elementary school, two grade levels in middle school, and two
 134 grade levels in high school.

135 (b) High school students achieve a grade of 75 percent or
 136 higher on a test to ensure that they understand the contents,
 137 meaning, and significance of the Declaration of Independence and
 138 the Constitution of the United States and the amendments

139 thereto.

140 ~~(4)(3)~~ Any student whose parent makes written request to
 141 the school principal shall be exempted from the teaching of
 142 reproductive health or any disease, including HIV/AIDS, its
 143 symptoms, development, and treatment. A student so exempted may
 144 not be penalized by reason of that exemption. Course
 145 descriptions for comprehensive health education shall not
 146 interfere with the local determination of appropriate curriculum
 147 which reflects local values and concerns.

148 Section 2. Paragraph (g) of subsection (1) of section
 149 1003.43, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

150 1003.43 General requirements for high school graduation.--

151 (1) Graduation requires successful completion of either a
 152 minimum of 24 academic credits in grades 9 through 12 or an
 153 International Baccalaureate curriculum. The 24 credits shall be
 154 distributed as follows:

155 (g) One-half credit in American government, including
 156 study of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of
 157 the United States. For students entering the 9th grade in the
 158 1997-1998 school year and thereafter, the study of Florida
 159 government, including study of the State Constitution, the three
 160 branches of state government, and municipal and county
 161 government, shall be included as part of the required study of
 162 American government.

163
 164 District school boards may award a maximum of one-half credit in
 165 social studies and one-half elective credit for student
 166 completion of nonpaid voluntary community or school service

167 work. Students choosing this option must complete a minimum of
 168 75 hours of service in order to earn the one-half credit in
 169 either category of instruction. Credit may not be earned for
 170 service provided as a result of court action. District school
 171 boards that approve the award of credit for student volunteer
 172 service shall develop guidelines regarding the award of the
 173 credit, and school principals are responsible for approving
 174 specific volunteer activities. A course designated in the Course
 175 Code Directory as grade 9 through grade 12 that is taken below
 176 the 9th grade may be used to satisfy high school graduation
 177 requirements or Florida Academic Scholars award requirements as
 178 specified in a district school board's student progression plan.
 179 A student shall be granted credit toward meeting the
 180 requirements of this subsection for equivalent courses, as
 181 identified pursuant to s. 1007.271(6), taken through dual
 182 enrollment.

183 Section 3. Paragraph (d) of subsection (3) of section
 184 1002.20, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

185 1002.20 K-12 student and parent rights.--Parents of public
 186 school students must receive accurate and timely information
 187 regarding their child's academic progress and must be informed
 188 of ways they can help their child to succeed in school. K-12
 189 students and their parents are afforded numerous statutory
 190 rights including, but not limited to, the following:

191 (3) HEALTH ISSUES.--

192 (d) Reproductive health and disease education.--A public
 193 school student whose parent makes written request to the school
 194 principal shall be exempted from the teaching of reproductive

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195 | health or any disease, including HIV/AIDS, in accordance with
196 | the provisions of s. 1003.42(4)~~(3)~~.

197 | Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.