

CHAMBER ACTION

1 The PreK-12 Committee recommends the following:

2
3 **Council/Committee Substitute**

4 Remove the entire bill and insert:

5 A bill to be entitled

6 An act relating to public K-12 educational instruction;
7 amending s. 1003.42, F.S.; revising provisions relating to
8 required instruction and courses of study in the public
9 schools; including study of the history of the United
10 States and free enterprise; requiring standards and
11 assessments adopted by the State Board of Education to
12 conform to requirements for instruction; providing
13 requirements for teaching the history of the United States
14 at certain grade levels; amending s. 1003.43, F.S.,
15 relating to general requirements for high school
16 graduation; including study of the Declaration of
17 Independence in the credit requirement for American
18 government; amending s. 1002.20, F.S.; correcting a cross
19 reference; providing an effective date.

20
21 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
22

23 Section 1. Section 1003.42, Florida Statutes, is amended
24 to read:

25 1003.42 Required instruction.--

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

32 (2) All members of the instructional staff of the public
33 schools, subject to the rules of the State Board of Education
34 and the district school board, shall teach efficiently and
35 faithfully, using the books and materials required that meet the
36 highest standards for professionalism and historic accuracy,
37 following the prescribed courses of study, and employing
38 approved methods of instruction, the following:

39 (a) The history and content of the Declaration of
40 Independence as written, including national sovereignty, natural
41 law, self-evident truth, equality of all persons, limited
42 government, popular sovereignty, and God-given, inalienable
43 rights of life, liberty, and property, and how it forms the
44 philosophical foundation of our government.

45 (b) The history, meaning, significance, and effect of the
46 provisions of the Constitution of the United States and
47 amendments thereto with emphasis on each of the 10 amendments
48 that make up the Bill of Rights and how the constitution
49 provides the structure of our government.

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

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51 ~~(d)(b)~~ The most important arguments in support of adopting
52 our republican form of government, as they are embodied in the
53 most important of the Federalist Papers.

54 ~~(e)~~ ~~The essentials of the United States Constitution and~~
55 ~~how it provides the structure of our government.~~

56 ~~(e)(d)~~ Flag education, including proper flag display and
57 flag salute.

58 ~~(f)(e)~~ The elements of United States civil government,
59 including the primary functions of and interrelationships
60 between the Federal Government, the state, and its counties,
61 municipalities, school districts, and special districts.

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

73 ~~(h)(f)~~ The history of the Holocaust (1933-1945), the
74 systematic, planned annihilation of European Jews and other
75 groups by Nazi Germany, a watershed event in the history of
76 humanity, to be taught in a manner that leads to an
77 investigation of human behavior, an understanding of the
78 ramifications of prejudice, racism, and stereotyping, and an

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79 examination of what it means to be a responsible and respectful
80 person, for the purposes of encouraging tolerance of diversity
81 in a pluralistic society and for nurturing and protecting
82 democratic values and institutions.

83 (i)~~(g)~~ The history of African Americans, including the
84 history of African peoples before the political conflicts that
85 led to the development of slavery, the passage to America, the
86 enslavement experience, abolition, and the contributions of
87 African Americans to society.

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

89 (k)~~(i)~~ The true effects of all alcoholic and intoxicating
90 liquors and beverages and narcotics upon the human body and
91 mind.

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

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

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

95 (n)~~(m)~~ Comprehensive health education that addresses
96 concepts of community health; consumer health; environmental
97 health; family life, including an awareness of the benefits of
98 sexual abstinence as the expected standard and the consequences
99 of teenage pregnancy; ~~mental and emotional health;~~ injury
100 prevention and safety; nutrition; personal health; prevention
101 and control of disease; and substance use and abuse.

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

106 ~~(p)~~~~(e)~~ The study of Hispanic contributions to the United
107 States.

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

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

112 ~~(s)~~~~(q)~~ A character-development program in the elementary
113 schools, similar to Character First or Character Counts, which
114 is secular in nature ~~and stresses such character qualities as~~
115 ~~attentiveness, patience, and initiative.~~ Beginning in school
116 year 2004-2005, the character-development program shall be
117 required in kindergarten through grade 12. Each district school
118 board shall develop or adopt a curriculum for the character-
119 development program that shall be submitted to the department
120 for approval. The character-development curriculum shall stress
121 the qualities of patriotism; responsibility; citizenship; the
122 Golden Rule; kindness; respect for authority, human life,
123 liberty, and personal property; honesty; charity; self-
124 control; racial, ethnic, and religious tolerance; and
125 cooperation.

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

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133 Standards and assessments adopted by the State Board of
 134 Education shall be based on, and conform to, the requirements of
 135 this subsection.

136 (3) Each district school board shall require that United
 137 States history, including the provisions of paragraphs (2)(a)-
 138 (g), be taught in at least two grade levels in elementary
 139 school, two grade levels in middle school, and two grade levels
 140 in high school.

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

149 Section 2. Paragraph (g) of subsection (1) of section
 150 1003.43, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

151 1003.43 General requirements for high school graduation.--

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

156 (g) One-half credit in American government, including
 157 study of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of
 158 the United States. For students entering the 9th grade in the
 159 1997-1998 school year and thereafter, the study of Florida
 160 government, including study of the State Constitution, the three

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161 | branches of state government, and municipal and county
 162 | government, shall be included as part of the required study of
 163 | American government.

164 |
 165 | District school boards may award a maximum of one-half credit in
 166 | social studies and one-half elective credit for student
 167 | completion of nonpaid voluntary community or school service
 168 | work. Students choosing this option must complete a minimum of
 169 | 75 hours of service in order to earn the one-half credit in
 170 | either category of instruction. Credit may not be earned for
 171 | service provided as a result of court action. District school
 172 | boards that approve the award of credit for student volunteer
 173 | service shall develop guidelines regarding the award of the
 174 | credit, and school principals are responsible for approving
 175 | specific volunteer activities. A course designated in the Course
 176 | Code Directory as grade 9 through grade 12 that is taken below
 177 | the 9th grade may be used to satisfy high school graduation
 178 | requirements or Florida Academic Scholars award requirements as
 179 | specified in a district school board's student progression plan.
 180 | A student shall be granted credit toward meeting the
 181 | requirements of this subsection for equivalent courses, as
 182 | identified pursuant to s. 1007.271(6), taken through dual
 183 | enrollment.

184 | Section 3. Paragraph (d) of subsection (3) of section
 185 | 1002.20, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

186 | 1002.20 K-12 student and parent rights.--Parents of public
 187 | school students must receive accurate and timely information
 188 | regarding their child's academic progress and must be informed

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189 | of ways they can help their child to succeed in school. K-12
190 | students and their parents are afforded numerous statutory
191 | rights including, but not limited to, the following:

192 | (3) HEALTH ISSUES.--

193 | (d) Reproductive health and disease education.--A public
194 | school student whose parent makes written request to the school
195 | principal shall be exempted from the teaching of reproductive
196 | health or any disease, including HIV/AIDS, in accordance with
197 | the provisions of s. 1003.42(4)~~(3)~~.

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