

CHAMBER ACTION

1 The PreK-12 Committee recommends the following:

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3 **Council/Committee Substitute**

4 Remove the entire bill and insert:

5 A bill to be entitled

6 An act relating to required instruction in the public  
7 schools; amending s. 1003.42, F.S.; revising provisions  
8 relating to the development and adoption of character-  
9 development curricula by district school boards; providing  
10 for electronic access to character-development curricula  
11 and programs approved by the Department of Education;  
12 revising components of the curricula; authorizing  
13 curricula meeting certain standards; providing an  
14 effective date.

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

17  
18 Section 1. Paragraph (q) of subsection (2) of section  
19 1003.42, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

20 1003.42 Required instruction.--

21 (2) Members of the instructional staff of the public  
22 schools, subject to the rules of the State Board of Education  
23 and the district school board, shall teach efficiently and

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24 | faithfully, using the books and materials required, following  
25 | the prescribed courses of study, and employing approved methods  
26 | of instruction, the following:

27 |       (q) A character-development program in the elementary  
28 | schools, similar to Character First or Character Counts, which  
29 | is secular in nature and stresses such character qualities as  
30 | attentiveness, patience, and initiative. Beginning in school  
31 | year 2004-2005, the character-development program shall be  
32 | required in kindergarten through grade 12. Each district school  
33 | board shall develop or adopt a curriculum for the character-  
34 | development program that shall be submitted to the department  
35 | for approval. A curriculum developed or adopted by a district  
36 | school board and approved by the department may be shared with  
37 | other school districts. The department shall provide electronic  
38 | access to school districts to character-development curricula  
39 | and programs that have been approved by the department.  
40 | Additionally, the department shall provide technical assistance  
41 | to district school boards to assist school districts in  
42 | developing a model character-development curriculum to meet the  
43 | requirements of this paragraph. The character-development  
44 | curriculum shall define character to include its cognitive,  
45 | emotional, and behavioral dimensions; stress the qualities of  
46 | patriotism, responsibility, citizenship, kindness, respect,  
47 | honesty, self-control, tolerance, and cooperation; provide for  
48 | an orderly learning environment to enable students to make  
49 | positive lifestyle choices and avoid unhealthy behavior; create  
50 | a positive moral culture in the classroom and the school; and  
51 | develop moral character and civic virtue in students as one

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CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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52 | means of creating a responsible and compassionate society.  
53 | School districts may choose curricula and programs not on the  
54 | list of department-approved curricula and programs that meet the  
55 | No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 standards of strong evidence of  
56 | effectiveness.

57 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.