## Florida Senate - 2006

By the Committee on Education; and Senator Fasano

581-2401-06

1	A bill to be entitled
2	An act relating to public K-12 educational
3	instruction; amending s. 1003.42, F.S.;
4	revising provisions relating to required
5	instruction and courses of study in the public
6	schools; including study of the history of the
7	United States and free enterprise; requiring
8	standards adopted by the State Board of
9	Education to conform to requirements for
10	instruction; providing requirements for
11	teaching the history of the United States at
12	certain grade levels; amending s. 1003.43,
13	F.S., relating to general requirements for high
14	school graduation; including study of the
15	Declaration of Independence in the credit
16	requirement for American government; amending
17	s. 1002.20, F.S.; correcting a cross-reference;
18	providing an effective date.
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20	Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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22	Section 1. Section 1003.42, Florida Statutes, is
23	amended to read:
24	1003.42 Required instruction
25	(1) Each district school board shall provide all
26	courses required for high school graduation and appropriate
27	instruction designed to ensure that students meet State Board
28	of Education adopted standards in the following subject areas:
29	reading and other language arts, mathematics, science, social
30	studies, foreign languages, health and physical education, and
31	the arts.

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1	(2) <u>All</u> members of the instructional staff of the
2	public schools, subject to the rules of the State Board of
3	Education and the district school board, shall teach
4	efficiently and faithfully, using the books and materials
5	required that meet the highest standards for professionalism
6	and historic accuracy, following the prescribed courses of
7	study, and employing approved methods of instruction. $\overline{.   au}$ The
8	following provisions shall be included to align with the
9	schedule adopted by the State Board of Education for revision
10	of the Sunshine State Standards and the instructional
11	materials adoption cycle:
12	(a) The <u>history and</u> content of the Declaration of
13	Independence as written, including national sovereignty,
14	natural law, self-evident truth, equality of all persons,
15	limited government, popular sovereignty, and God-given,
16	inalienable rights of life, liberty, and property, and how it
17	forms the philosophical foundation of our government.
18	(b) The history, meaning, significance, and effect of
19	the provisions of the Constitution of the United States and
20	amendments thereto with emphasis on each of the 10 amendments
21	that make up the Bill of Rights and how the constitution
22	provides the structure of our government.
23	(c) The history of the state and the State
24	Constitution.
25	<u>(d)(b)</u> The <u>most important</u> arguments in support of
26	adopting our republican form of government, as they are
27	embodied in the most important of the Federalist Papers.
28	(c) The essentials of the United States Constitution
29	and how it provides the structure of our government.
30	<u>(e)(d)</u> Flag education, including proper flag display
31	and flag salute.

1	<u>(f)(e)</u> The elements of <u>United States</u> civil government,
2	including the primary functions of and interrelationships
3	between the Federal Government, the state, and its counties,
4	municipalities, school districts, and special districts.
5	(q) The history of the United States, including the
6	period of discovery, the early colonies, the War for
7	Independence, the Civil War, the expansion of the United
8	States to its present boundaries, the world wars, and the
9	civil rights movement to the present. The history of the
10	United States shall be taught in a factual manner based on
11	genuine history.
12	<u>(h)<del>(f)</del></u> The history of the Holocaust (1933-1945), the
13	systematic, planned annihilation of European Jews and other
14	groups by Nazi Germany, a watershed event in the history of
15	humanity, to be taught in a manner that leads to an
16	investigation of human behavior, an understanding of the
17	ramifications of prejudice, racism, and stereotyping, and an
18	examination of what it means to be a responsible and
19	respectful person, for the purposes of encouraging tolerance
20	of diversity in a pluralistic society and for nurturing and
21	protecting democratic values and institutions.
22	(i)(g) The history of African Americans, including the
23	history of African peoples before the political conflicts that
24	led to the development of slavery, the passage to America, the
25	enslavement experience, abolition, and the contributions of
26	African Americans to society.
27	(j)(h) The elementary principles of agriculture.
28	<u>(k)(i)</u> The true effects of all alcoholic and
29	intoxicating liquors and beverages and narcotics upon the
30	human body and mind.
31	<u>(l)</u> ( <del>j)</del> Kindness to animals.
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1 (k) The history of the state. 2 (m)(1) The conservation of natural resources. 3 (n)(m) Comprehensive health education that addresses 4 concepts of community health; consumer health; environmental health; family life, including an awareness of the benefits of 5 6 sexual abstinence as the expected standard and the 7 consequences of teenage pregnancy; mental and emotional 8 health; injury prevention and safety; nutrition; personal 9 health; prevention and control of disease; and substance use 10 and abuse. (o)(n) Such additional materials, subjects, courses, 11 12 or fields in such grades as are prescribed by law or by rules 13 of the State Board of Education and the district school board in fulfilling the requirements of law. 14 (p)(o) The study of Hispanic contributions to the 15 16 United States. 17 (q)(p) The study of women's contributions to the 18 United States. (r) The nature and importance of free enterprise to 19 the United States economy. 20 21 (s)(q) A character-development program in the 22 elementary schools, similar to Character First or Character 23 Counts, which is secular in nature and stresses such character 2.4 qualities as attentiveness, patience, and initiative. Beginning in school year 2004-2005, the character-development 25 26 program shall be required in kindergarten through grade 12. 27 Each district school board shall develop or adopt a curriculum 2.8 for the character-development program that shall be submitted 29 to the department for approval. The character-development curriculum shall stress the qualities of patriotismir 30 responsibility; citizenship; the Golden Rule; kindness; 31

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1 respect for authority, human life, liberty, and personal 2 property; honesty; charity; self-control; racial, ethnic, and religious tolerance; , and cooperation. 3 (t)(r) In order to encourage patriotism, the 4 5 sacrifices that veterans have made in serving our country and 6 protecting democratic values worldwide. Such instruction must 7 occur on or before Veterans' Day and Memorial Day. Members of 8 the instructional staff are encouraged to use the assistance 9 of local veterans when practicable. 10 Standards adopted by the State Board of Education shall be 11 12 based on, and conform to, the requirements of this subsection. 13 (3) Each district school board shall require that United States history, including the provisions of paragraphs 14 (2)(a)-(q), be taught in at least two grade levels in 15 elementary school, one grade level in middle school, and one 16 17 grade level in high school. 18 (4) (3) Any student whose parent makes written request to the school principal shall be exempted from the teaching of 19 reproductive health or any disease, including HIV/AIDS, its 20 21 symptoms, development, and treatment. A student so exempted 22 may not be penalized by reason of that exemption. Course 23 descriptions for comprehensive health education shall not interfere with the local determination of appropriate 2.4 curriculum which reflects local values and concerns. 25 Section 2. Paragraph (g) of subsection (1) of section 26 27 1003.43, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 2.8 1003.43 General requirements for high school 29 graduation. --30 (1) Graduation requires successful completion of either a minimum of 24 academic credits in grades 9 through 12 31 5

1 or an International Baccalaureate curriculum. The 24 credits 2 shall be distributed as follows: 3 (g) One-half credit in American government, including 4 study of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States. For students entering the 9th grade in 5 6 the 1997-1998 school year and thereafter, the study of Florida 7 government, including study of the State Constitution, the 8 three branches of state government, and municipal and county government, shall be included as part of the required study of 9 American government. 10 11 12 District school boards may award a maximum of one-half credit 13 in social studies and one-half elective credit for student completion of nonpaid voluntary community or school service 14 work. Students choosing this option must complete a minimum of 15 75 hours of service in order to earn the one-half credit in 16 17 either category of instruction. Credit may not be earned for 18 service provided as a result of court action. District school boards that approve the award of credit for student volunteer 19 service shall develop guidelines regarding the award of the 20 21 credit, and school principals are responsible for approving 22 specific volunteer activities. A course designated in the 23 Course Code Directory as grade 9 through grade 12 that is taken below the 9th grade may be used to satisfy high school 2.4 graduation requirements or Florida Academic Scholars award 25 26 requirements as specified in a district school board's student 27 progression plan. A student shall be granted credit toward 2.8 meeting the requirements of this subsection for equivalent courses, as identified pursuant to s. 1007.271(6), taken 29 30 through dual enrollment. 31

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1 Section 3. Paragraph (d) of subsection (3) of section 1002.20, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 2 3 1002.20 K-12 student and parent rights.--Parents of 4 public school students must receive accurate and timely information regarding their child's academic progress and must 5 6 be informed of ways they can help their child to succeed in 7 school. K-12 students and their parents are afforded numerous 8 statutory rights including, but not limited to, the following: (3) HEALTH ISSUES.--9 10 (d) Reproductive health and disease education.--A public school student whose parent makes written request to 11 12 the school principal shall be exempted from the teaching of 13 reproductive health or any disease, including HIV/AIDS, in accordance with the provisions of s. 1003.42(4)(3). 14 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006. 15 16 17 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR 18 Senate Bill 28 19 The committee substitute: 20 21 Provides for the additional social studies content requirements to be aligned to and effective concurrent with 22 the scheduled revision of the Sunshine State Standards and subsequent instructional materials adoption cycle; and 23 Reduces the instruction of the additional content requirements 2.4 from two grade levels to one at the middle and high school levels. 25 26 27 2.8 29 30 31