

A bill to be entitled

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

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

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

1003.42 Required instruction.--

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

(2) All members of the instructional staff of the public

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29 schools, subject to the rules of the State Board of Education
 30 and the district school board, shall teach efficiently and
 31 faithfully, using the books and materials required that meet the
 32 highest standards for professionalism and historic accuracy,
 33 following the prescribed courses of study, and employing
 34 approved methods of instruction, the following:

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

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

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

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

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

52 (e)~~(d)~~ Flag education, including proper flag display and
 53 flag salute.

54 (f)~~(e)~~ The elements of United States civil government,
 55 including the primary functions of and interrelationships
 56 between the Federal Government, the state, and its counties,

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57 municipalities, school districts, and special districts.

58 (g) The history of the United States, including the period
59 of discovery, the early colonies, the War for Independence, the
60 Civil War, the expansion of the United States to its present
61 boundaries, the world wars, and the civil rights movement to the
62 present. The history of the United States shall be taught in a
63 factual manner based on genuine history.

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

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

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

80 (k)~~(i)~~ The true effects of all alcoholic and intoxicating
81 liquors and beverages and narcotics upon the human body and
82 mind.

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

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

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

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

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

97 (p)~~(o)~~ The study of Hispanic contributions to the United
 98 States.

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

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

103 (s)~~(q)~~ A character-development program in the elementary
 104 schools, similar to Character First or Character Counts, which
 105 is secular in nature ~~and stresses such character qualities as~~
 106 ~~attentiveness, patience, and initiative.~~ Beginning in school
 107 year 2004-2005, the character-development program shall be
 108 required in kindergarten through grade 12. Each district school
 109 board shall develop or adopt a curriculum for the character-
 110 development program that shall be submitted to the department
 111 for approval. The character-development curriculum shall stress
 112 the qualities of patriotism;; responsibility;; citizenship; the

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113 Golden Rule; kindness; respect for authority, human life,
114 liberty, and personal property; honesty; charity; self-
115 control; racial, ethnic, and religious tolerance; and
116 cooperation.

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

123
124 Standards and assessments adopted by the State Board of
125 Education shall be based on, and conform to, the requirements of
126 this subsection.

127 (3) Each district school board shall require that United
128 States history, including the provisions of paragraphs (2)(a)-
129 (g), be taught in at least two grade levels in elementary
130 school, two grade levels in middle school, and two grade levels
131 in high school.

132 ~~(4)~~ Any student whose parent makes written request to
133 the school principal shall be exempted from the teaching of
134 reproductive health or any disease, including HIV/AIDS, its
135 symptoms, development, and treatment. A student so exempted may
136 not be penalized by reason of that exemption. Course
137 descriptions for comprehensive health education shall not
138 interfere with the local determination of appropriate curriculum
139 which reflects local values and concerns.

140 Section 2. Paragraph (g) of subsection (1) of section

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141 1003.43, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

142 1003.43 General requirements for high school graduation.--

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

147 (g) One-half credit in American government, including
148 study of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of
149 the United States. For students entering the 9th grade in the
150 1997-1998 school year and thereafter, the study of Florida
151 government, including study of the State Constitution, the three
152 branches of state government, and municipal and county
153 government, shall be included as part of the required study of
154 American government.

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156 District school boards may award a maximum of one-half credit in
157 social studies and one-half elective credit for student
158 completion of nonpaid voluntary community or school service
159 work. Students choosing this option must complete a minimum of
160 75 hours of service in order to earn the one-half credit in
161 either category of instruction. Credit may not be earned for
162 service provided as a result of court action. District school
163 boards that approve the award of credit for student volunteer
164 service shall develop guidelines regarding the award of the
165 credit, and school principals are responsible for approving
166 specific volunteer activities. A course designated in the Course
167 Code Directory as grade 9 through grade 12 that is taken below
168 the 9th grade may be used to satisfy high school graduation

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169 requirements or Florida Academic Scholars award requirements as
170 specified in a district school board's student progression plan.
171 A student shall be granted credit toward meeting the
172 requirements of this subsection for equivalent courses, as
173 identified pursuant to s. 1007.271(6), taken through dual
174 enrollment.

175 Section 3. Paragraph (d) of subsection (3) of section
176 1002.20, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

177 1002.20 K-12 student and parent rights.--Parents of public
178 school students must receive accurate and timely information
179 regarding their child's academic progress and must be informed
180 of ways they can help their child to succeed in school. K-12
181 students and their parents are afforded numerous statutory
182 rights including, but not limited to, the following:

183 (3) HEALTH ISSUES.--

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

189 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.