

By the Committee on Education Pre-K - 12; and Senators Storms
and Wise

581-05919-08

20082692c1

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the teaching of chemical and biological
3 evolution; providing a short title; providing legislative
4 intent; defining the term "scientific information";
5 providing public school teachers with a right to present
6 scientific information relevant to the full range of views
7 on biological and chemical evolution; prohibiting a
8 teacher from being discriminated against for presenting
9 such information; prohibiting students from being
10 penalized for subscribing to a particular position on
11 evolution; clarifying that the act does not require any
12 change in state curriculum standards or promote any
13 religious position; providing an effective date.

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

16
17 Section 1. (1) This section may be cited as the "Evolution
18 Academic Freedom Act."

19 (2) As used in this section, the term "scientific
20 information" means germane current facts, data, and peer-reviewed
21 research specific to the topic of chemical and biological
22 evolution as prescribed in Florida's Science Standards.

23 (3) The Legislature finds that current law does not
24 expressly protect the right of teachers to objectively present
25 scientific information relevant to the full range of scientific
26 views regarding chemical and biological evolution. The
27 Legislature finds that in many instances educators have
28 experienced or feared discipline, discrimination, or other
29 adverse consequences as a result of presenting the full range of

581-05919-08

20082692c1

30 scientific views regarding chemical and biological evolution. The
31 Legislature further finds that existing law does not expressly
32 protect students from discrimination due to their positions or
33 views regarding biological or chemical evolution. The Legislature
34 finds that the topic of biological and chemical evolution has
35 generated intense controversy about the rights of teachers and
36 students to hold differing views on those subjects. It is
37 therefore the intent of the Legislature that this section
38 expressly protect those rights.

39 (4) Every public school teacher in the state's K-12 school
40 system shall have the affirmative right and freedom to
41 objectively present scientific information relevant to the full
42 range of scientific views regarding biological and chemical
43 evolution in connection with teaching any prescribed curriculum
44 regarding chemical or biological evolution.

45 (5) A public school teacher in the state's K-12 school
46 system may not be disciplined, denied tenure, terminated, or
47 otherwise discriminated against for objectively presenting
48 scientific information relevant to the full range of scientific
49 views regarding biological or chemical evolution in connection
50 with teaching any prescribed curriculum regarding chemical or
51 biological evolution.

52 (6) Public school students in the state's K-12 school
53 system shall be evaluated based upon their understanding of
54 course materials through normal testing procedures. However,
55 students shall not be penalized for subscribing to a particular
56 position or view regarding biological or chemical evolution.

57 (7) The rights and privileges contained in this section
58 apply when the subject of biological or chemical evolution is

581-05919-08

20082692c1

59 part of the curriculum. This section does not require or
60 encourage any change in the state curriculum standards for the K-
61 12 public school system.

62 (8) This section does not promote any religious doctrine,
63 promote discrimination for or against a particular set of
64 religious beliefs, or promote discrimination for or against
65 religion or nonreligion.

66 Section 2. This act shall take effect October 1, 2008.