

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to required instruction for public  
 3           schools; amending s. 1003.42, F.S.; requiring that the  
 4           character-development program for kindergarten through  
 5           grade 12 include conflict-resolution management; providing  
 6           an effective date.

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

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 10           Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 1003.42, Florida  
 11           Statutes, is amended to read:

12           1003.42 Required instruction.--

13           (2) Members of the instructional staff of the public  
 14           schools, subject to the rules of the State Board of Education  
 15           and the district school board, shall teach efficiently and  
 16           faithfully, using the books and materials required that meet the  
 17           highest standards for professionalism and historic accuracy,  
 18           following the prescribed courses of study, and employing  
 19           approved methods of instruction, the following:

20           (a) The history and content of the Declaration of  
 21           Independence, including national sovereignty, natural law, self-  
 22           evident truth, equality of all persons, limited government,  
 23           popular sovereignty, and inalienable rights of life, liberty,  
 24           and property, and how they form the philosophical foundation of  
 25           our government.

26           (b) The history, meaning, significance, and effect of the  
 27           provisions of the Constitution of the United States and  
 28           amendments thereto, with emphasis on each of the 10 amendments

29 | that make up the Bill of Rights and how the constitution  
30 | provides the structure of our government.

31 |       (c) The arguments in support of adopting our republican  
32 | form of government, as they are embodied in the most important  
33 | of the Federalist Papers.

34 |       (d) Flag education, including proper flag display and flag  
35 | salute.

36 |       (e) The elements of civil government, including the  
37 | primary functions of and interrelationships between the Federal  
38 | Government, the state, and its counties, municipalities, school  
39 | districts, and special districts.

40 |       (f) The history of the United States, including the period  
41 | of discovery, early colonies, the War for Independence, the  
42 | Civil War, the expansion of the United States to its present  
43 | boundaries, the world wars, and the civil rights movement to the  
44 | present. American history shall be viewed as factual, not as  
45 | constructed, shall be viewed as knowable, teachable, and  
46 | testable, and shall be defined as the creation of a new nation  
47 | based largely on the universal principles stated in the  
48 | Declaration of Independence.

49 |       (g) The history of the Holocaust (1933-1945), the  
50 | systematic, planned annihilation of European Jews and other  
51 | groups by Nazi Germany, a watershed event in the history of  
52 | humanity, to be taught in a manner that leads to an  
53 | investigation of human behavior, an understanding of the  
54 | ramifications of prejudice, racism, and stereotyping, and an  
55 | examination of what it means to be a responsible and respectful  
56 | person, for the purposes of encouraging tolerance of diversity

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57 | in a pluralistic society and for nurturing and protecting  
58 | democratic values and institutions.

59 |       (h) The history of African Americans, including the  
60 | history of African peoples before the political conflicts that  
61 | led to the development of slavery, the passage to America, the  
62 | enslavement experience, abolition, and the contributions of  
63 | African Americans to society.

64 |       (i) The elementary principles of agriculture.

65 |       (j) The true effects of all alcoholic and intoxicating  
66 | liquors and beverages and narcotics upon the human body and  
67 | mind.

68 |       (k) Kindness to animals.

69 |       (l) The history of the state.

70 |       (m) The conservation of natural resources.

71 |       (n) Comprehensive health education that addresses concepts  
72 | of community health; consumer health; environmental health;  
73 | family life, including an awareness of the benefits of sexual  
74 | abstinence as the expected standard and the consequences of  
75 | teenage pregnancy; mental and emotional health; injury  
76 | prevention and safety; nutrition; personal health; prevention  
77 | and control of disease; and substance use and abuse.

78 |       (o) Such additional materials, subjects, courses, or  
79 | fields in such grades as are prescribed by law or by rules of  
80 | the State Board of Education and the district school board in  
81 | fulfilling the requirements of law.

82 |       (p) The study of Hispanic contributions to the United  
83 | States.

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84 (q) The study of women's contributions to the United  
85 States.

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

88 (s) A character-development program in the elementary  
89 schools, similar to Character First or Character Counts, which  
90 is secular in nature. Beginning in school year 2004-2005, the  
91 character-development program shall be required in kindergarten  
92 through grade 12. Each district school board shall develop or  
93 adopt a curriculum for the character-development program that  
94 shall be submitted to the department for approval. The  
95 character-development curriculum shall emphasize ~~stress~~ the  
96 qualities of patriotism; responsibility; citizenship; kindness;  
97 respect for authority, life, liberty, and personal property;  
98 honesty; charity; self-control; racial, ethnic, and religious  
99 tolerance; ~~and~~ cooperation; and conflict-resolution management,  
100 including peer mediation.

101 (t) In order to encourage patriotism, the sacrifices that  
102 veterans have made in serving our country and protecting  
103 democratic values worldwide. Such instruction must occur on or  
104 before Veterans' Day and Memorial Day. Members of the  
105 instructional staff are encouraged to use the assistance of  
106 local veterans when practicable.

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108 The State Board of Education is encouraged to adopt standards  
109 and pursue assessment of the requirements of this subsection.

110 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.