**By** Senator Siplin

19-00648-09                                              2009776__

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;
6         providing an effective date.
7
8    Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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10        Section 1. Paragraph (s) of subsection (2) of section
11   1003.42, Florida 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        (s) A character-development program in the elementary
21   schools, similar to Character First or Character Counts, which
22   is secular in nature. Beginning in school year 2004-2005, the
23   character-development program shall be required in kindergarten
24   through grade 12. Each district school board shall develop or
25   adopt a curriculum for the character-development program that
26   shall be submitted to the department for approval. The
27   character-development curriculum shall emphasize <del>stress</del> the
28   qualities of patriotism; responsibility; citizenship; kindness;
29   respect for authority, life, liberty, and personal property;

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30 honesty; charity; self-control; racial, ethnic, and religious

31 tolerance; ~~and~~ cooperation; and conflict-resolution management,

32 including peer mediation.

33

34 The State Board of Education is encouraged to adopt standards

35 and pursue assessment of the requirements of this subsection.

36      Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2009.