

HB 417

2011

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to public school educational instruction;
 3 amending s. 1003.44, F.S.; requiring district school
 4 boards to designate one month of the school year to
 5 celebrate the Founding Fathers of the United States of
 6 America and the principles inherent in the country's
 7 founding documents; specifying the focus of instruction
 8 during the designated month; providing that instruction
 9 may be integrated into the existing school curriculum;
 10 providing an effective date.

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

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 14 Section 1. Subsection (3) is added to section 1003.44,
 15 Florida Statutes, to read:

16 1003.44 Patriotic programs; rules.—

17 (3) (a) Each district school board shall designate one
 18 month of the school year to celebrate the Founding Fathers of
 19 the United States of America and the principles inherent in the
 20 country's founding documents. This month may be coordinated with
 21 Celebrate Freedom Week which is observed pursuant to s.
 22 1003.421.

23 (b) During the designated month, students shall be
 24 provided instruction that focuses on:

25 1. The leading figures present at the country's founding
 26 who were instrumental in crafting the founding documents and
 27 setting democratic political precedent.

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28 2. The moral and civic virtue, self-sacrifice,
29 intellectual genius, and patriotism demonstrated by the
30 country's founding fathers.

31 3. The founding documents, including, but not limited to,
32 the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United
33 States, the Bill of Rights, and the Federalist Papers.

34 4. The historical and philosophical importance of the
35 Declaration of Independence with its emphasis that all people
36 "are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights,
37 that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of
38 happiness."

39 5. The principles inherent in the founding documents,
40 including, but not limited to, individual freedom, limited
41 representative democratic government, a free market economy and
42 system, civic virtue, national sovereignty, natural law, and
43 self-evident truth.

44 (c) The instruction may be integrated into the existing
45 school curriculum through methods including, but not limited to,
46 supplementing lesson plans, holding school assemblies, or
47 providing school-related activities.

48 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2011.