

By Senator Diaz de la Portilla

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

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

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

17 1003.44 Patriotic programs; rules.—

18 (3) (a) Each district school board shall designate one month
19 of the school year to celebrate the Founding Fathers of the
20 United States of America and the principles inherent in the
21 country's founding documents. This month may be coordinated with
22 Celebrate Freedom Week which is observed pursuant to s.
23 1003.421.

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

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

29 2. The moral and civic virtue, self-sacrifice, intellectual

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30 genius, and patriotism demonstrated by the country's founding
31 fathers.

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

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

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

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

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