

CS/HB 1147

2016

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to character-development instruction;  
3           amending s. 1003.42, F.S.; requiring character-  
4           development programs to provide certain instruction to  
5           students in grades 9-12; providing an effective date.  
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7   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
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9           Section 1. Paragraph (s) of subsection (2) of section  
10   1003.42, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

11           1003.42 Required instruction.—

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

19           (s) A character-development program in the elementary  
20   schools, similar to Character First or Character Counts, which  
21   is secular in nature. Beginning in school year 2004-2005, the  
22   character-development program shall be required in kindergarten  
23   through grade 12. Each district school board shall develop or  
24   adopt a curriculum for the character-development program that  
25   shall be submitted to the department for approval. The  
26   character-development curriculum shall stress the qualities of

27 | patriotism; responsibility; citizenship; kindness; respect for  
28 | authority, life, liberty, and personal property; honesty;  
29 | charity; self-control; racial, ethnic, and religious tolerance;  
30 | and cooperation. The character-development curriculum for grades  
31 | 9 through 12 shall, at a minimum, include instruction on  
32 | developing leadership skills, interpersonal skills, organization  
33 | skills, and research skills; creating a résumé; developing and  
34 | practicing the skills necessary for employment interviews;  
35 | managing stress and expectations; and developing skills that  
36 | enable students to become more resilient and self-motivated.

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38 | The State Board of Education is encouraged to adopt standards  
39 | and pursue assessment of the requirements of this subsection.

40 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.