

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Education Pre-K - 12

BILL: SB 1462

INTRODUCER: Senator Latvala

SUBJECT: Educational Instruction

DATE: February 1, 2016

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Scott</u>	<u>Klebacha</u>	<u>ED</u>	<u>Pre-meeting</u>
2.	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>AED</u>	<u> </u>
3.	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>AP</u>	<u> </u>

I. Summary:

SB 1462 requires the Commissioner of Education to develop an elective course for high school students which addresses life skills and character development.

Specifically, the bill requires the course, developed in consultation with the Articulation Coordinating Committee, to include, at a minimum, instruction on:

- Developing leadership skills, interpersonal skills, organization skills, and research skills.
- Creating a resume.
- Developing and practicing the skills necessary for employment interviews.
- Managing stress and expectations.
- Developing personal skills that enable students to become resilient and self-motivated.

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2016.

II. Present Situation:

Florida law outlines specific content area instructional requirements, in addition to required core curricular content areas,¹ for middle grades promotion and high school graduation.²

¹ Section 1003.41, F.S.

² Each district school board is required to provide all courses required for middle grades promotion, high school graduation, and appropriate instruction designed to ensure that students meet the State Board of Education adopted standards in reading and other language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, foreign languages, health and physical education, and the arts. Section 1003.42(1), F.S.

Required Instruction

In addition to the required core curriculum, Florida law requires public school instruction in certain specified content areas, including, but not limited to:³

- The history and content of the Declaration of Independence.
- The history, meaning, significance, and effect of the provisions of the Constitution of the United States.
- The arguments in support of adopting our republican form of government.
- The elements of civil government.
- The history of the Holocaust.
- The history of African Americans.
- The elementary principles of agriculture.
- Kindness to animals.
- The history of the state.
- Comprehensive health education.
- A character-development program in kindergarten through grade 12.

The law encourages the State Board of Education (State Board) to adopt standards and pursue assessment relating to the required instructional content.⁴

Character-Development Program

In 1999, legislation was passed requiring a secular, character-development program, similar to Character First⁵ or Character Counts,⁶ to be incorporated into elementary school instruction.⁷

Current law requires that each school district develop or adopt a curriculum for a character-development program in kindergarten through grade 12, and submit that curriculum to the Department of Education for approval.⁸ The character-development curriculum must stress the qualities of patriotism; responsibility; citizenship; kindness; respect for authority, life, liberty, and personal property; honesty; charity; self-control; racial, ethnic, religious tolerance; and cooperation.⁹

³ Section 1003.42(2), F.S.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ Character First Education offers curriculum and training for public and private schools, home school families, mentoring programs, summer camps, and other educational settings. Character First Education, *About Character First*, <http://characterfirsteducation.com/c/about.php>, (last visited January 29, 2016).

⁶ Character Counts! is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit program that provides a curriculum, along with resources, based on its Six Pillars of Character®: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship. Character Counts!, *The Six Pillars of Character®*, <http://charactercounts.org/program-overview/six-pillars/>, (last visited January 29, 2016).

⁷ Section 1, ch. 99-347, L.O.F., *codified as s. 233.061(2)(q)*, F.S.

⁸ Section 1003.42(2)(s), F.S.

⁹ *Id.*

Articulation Coordinating Committee

The Articulation Coordinating Committee (ACC) makes recommendations relating to statewide articulation policies and issues regarding access, quality, and reporting of data¹⁰ to the Higher Education Coordinating Council, the State Board, and the Board of Governors.¹¹ The ACC consists of two members each representing the State University System, the Florida College System, public career and technical education, K-12 education, and nonpublic postsecondary education and one member representing students.¹²

Furthermore, the ACC makes recommendations to the State Board regarding the courses to be included in the Course Code Directory for which a student may receive elective or required credit toward high school graduation.¹³ The Course Code Directory assists counselors, students and parents in schedule planning; provides course specific information, including course level and length; and lists appropriate teacher certification levels for courses.¹⁴

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

SB 1462 requires the Commissioner of Education to develop an elective course for high school students which addresses life skills and character development.

Specifically, the bill requires the course, developed in consultation with the Articulation Coordinating Committee, to include, at a minimum, instruction on:

- Developing leadership skills, interpersonal skills, organization skills, and research skills.
- Creating a resume.
- Developing and practicing the skills necessary for employment interviews.
- Managing stress and expectations.
- Developing personal skills that enable students to become resilient and self-motivated.

The bill expands current law regarding character-development curriculum by requiring the development of an elective course to be made available to all students in grades 9 through 12. Current law generally requires K-12 instruction regarding character-development and specifies certain character qualities that must be emphasized; however, it does not refer to or require the development of a specific course to be taken by students. Also, the bill requires the course to

¹⁰ The data is maintained by the K-20 data warehouse for which the Commissioner of Education is the sole custodian. Section 1001.10(1), F.S. The purpose of the K-20 data warehouse is to allow the DOE to conduct studies, report annual and longitudinal student outcomes, and improve college readiness and articulation. Section 1008.31(3), F.S. The K-20 data warehouse includes data collected by the DOE related to prekindergarten through grade 12 schools, technical centers, and FCS institutions. Rule 6A-1.0015, F.A.C. Also, data within the State University Database System is integrated into the K-20 data warehouse. Section 1008.31(3), F.S.

¹¹ Section 1007.01(3), F.S.

¹² *Id.* See Florida Department of Education, Articulation Coordinating Committee Members, <http://www.fldoe.org/policy/articulation/committees/articulation-coordinating-committee-ov/articulation-coordinating-committee-ac.stml> (last visited January 30, 2016).

¹³ Rule 6A-1.09441, F.A.C.

¹⁴ Florida Department of Education, *Course Code Directory (CCD) & Instructional Personnel Assignments*, <http://www.fldoe.org/policy/articulation/ccd/> (last visited January 30, 2016). See also Florida Department of Education, *2015-2016 Course Directory*, <http://www.fldoe.org/policy/articulation/ccd/2015-2016-course-directory.stml> (last visited January 30, 2016).

include instruction on additional types of character-development skills not addressed in current law.

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2016.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

The bill creates section 1003.481 of the Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:

- A. **Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

- B. **Amendments:**

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.
