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576-04123-17

Proposed Committee Substitute by the Committee on Appropriations  
(Appropriations Subcommittee on Pre-K - 12 Education)

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to education; creating s. 683.1455, F.S.; designating the month of September as "American Founders' Month"; amending s. 1000.03, F.S.; revising the priorities of Florida's K-20 education system; amending s. 1001.215, F.S.; revising the duties of the Just Read, Florida! Office to include developing and providing access to certain resources for elementary schools; amending s. 1003.44, F.S.; encouraging schools to provide certain instruction; amending s. 1007.25, F.S.; requiring postsecondary students to demonstrate civic literacy; requiring the chairs of the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors to jointly appoint a faculty committee to develop a civic literacy course, or revise an existing general education core course, and establish the course competencies; amending ss. 943.22 and 1001.64, F.S.; conforming cross-references; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 683.1455, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

683.1455 American Founders' Month.—

(1) The month of September of each year is designated as "American Founders' Month."



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28       (2) The Governor may annually issue a proclamation  
29 designating the month of September as "American Founders' Month"  
30 and urging all civic, fraternal, and religious organizations and  
31 public and private educational institutions to recognize and  
32 observe this occasion through appropriate programs, meetings,  
33 services, or celebrations in which state, county, and local  
34 governmental officials are invited to participate.

35       Section 2. Present paragraphs (c) through (g) of subsection  
36 (5) of section 1000.03, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as  
37 paragraphs (d) through (h), respectively, and a new paragraph  
38 (c) is added to that subsection, to read:

39       1000.03 Function, mission, and goals of the Florida K-20  
40 education system.—

41       (5) The priorities of Florida's K-20 education system  
42 include:

43       (c) Civic literacy.—Students are prepared to become  
44 civically engaged and knowledgeable adults who make positive  
45 contributions to their communities.

46       Section 3. Present subsections (4) through (11) of section  
47 1001.215, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (5)  
48 through (12), respectively, and a new subsection (4) is added to  
49 that section, to read:

50       1001.215 Just Read, Florida! Office.—There is created in  
51 the Department of Education the Just Read, Florida! Office. The  
52 office shall be fully accountable to the Commissioner of  
53 Education and shall:

54       (4) Develop and provide access to sequenced, content-rich  
55 curriculum programming, instructional practices, and resources  
56 that help elementary schools use state-adopted instructional



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57 materials to increase students' core knowledge and literacy  
58 skills, including student attainment of the Next Generation  
59 Sunshine State Standards for social studies, science, and the  
60 arts.

61 Section 4. Subsection (3) is added to section 1003.44,  
62 Florida Statutes, to read:

63 1003.44 Patriotic programs; rules.—

64 (3) All public schools in the state are encouraged to  
65 coordinate, at all grade levels, instruction related to our  
66 nation's Founding Fathers with "American Founders' Month"  
67 pursuant to s. 683.1455.

68 Section 5. Present subsections (4) through (11) of section  
69 1007.25, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (5)  
70 through (12), respectively, and a new subsection (4) is added to  
71 that section, to read:

72 1007.25 General education courses; common prerequisites;  
73 other degree requirements.—

74 (4) Beginning with students initially entering a Florida  
75 College System institution or state university in 2018-2019 and  
76 thereafter, each student must demonstrate competency in civic  
77 literacy. A student must have the option to demonstrate  
78 competency through successful completion of a civic literacy  
79 course or by achieving a passing score on an assessment. The  
80 State Board of Education must adopt in rule and the Board of  
81 Governors must adopt in regulation at least one existing  
82 assessment that measures competencies consistent with the  
83 required course competencies outlined in paragraph (b). The  
84 chair of the State Board of Education and the chair of the Board  
85 of Governors, or their respective designees, shall jointly



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86 appoint a faculty committee to:

87 (a) Develop a new course in civic literacy or revise an  
88 existing general education core course in American History or  
89 American Government to include civic literacy; and

90 (b) Establish course competencies and identify outcomes  
91 that include, at a minimum, an understanding of the basic  
92 principles of American democracy and how they are applied in our  
93 republican form of government, an understanding of the United  
94 States Constitution, knowledge of the founding documents and how  
95 they have shaped the nature and functions of our institutions of  
96 self-governance, and an understanding of landmark Supreme Court  
97 cases and their impact on law and society.

98 Section 6. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section  
99 943.22, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

100 943.22 Salary incentive program for full-time officers.—

101 (1) For the purpose of this section, the term:

102 (c) "Community college degree or equivalent" means  
103 graduation from an accredited community college or having been  
104 granted a degree pursuant to s. 1007.25(11) ~~s. 1007.25(10)~~ or  
105 successful completion of 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours  
106 and eligibility to receive an associate degree from an  
107 accredited college, university, or community college.

108 Section 7. Subsection (7) and paragraph (d) of subsection  
109 (8) of section 1001.64, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

110 1001.64 Florida College System institution boards of  
111 trustees; powers and duties.—

112 (7) Each board of trustees has responsibility for: ensuring  
113 that students have access to general education courses as  
114 identified in rule; requiring no more than 60 semester hours of



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115 degree program coursework, including 36 semester hours of  
116 general education coursework, for an associate in arts degree;  
117 notifying students that earned hours in excess of 60 semester  
118 hours may not be accepted by state universities; notifying  
119 students of unique program prerequisites; and ensuring that  
120 degree program coursework beyond general education coursework is  
121 consistent with degree program prerequisite requirements adopted  
122 pursuant to s. 1007.25(6) ~~s. 1007.25(5)~~.

123 (8) Each board of trustees has authority for policies  
124 related to students, enrollment of students, student records,  
125 student activities, financial assistance, and other student  
126 services.

127 (d) Boards of trustees shall identify their general  
128 education curricula pursuant to s. 1007.25(7) ~~s. 1007.25(6)~~.

129 Section 8. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.