

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

BILL: SB 1710

INTRODUCER: Senator Stargel

SUBJECT: Education

DATE: March 31, 2017

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Bouck	Graf	ED	Favorable
2.			AED	
3.			AP	
4.			RC	

I. Summary:

SB 1710 designates the month of September as “American Founders’ Month” and authorizes the Governor to issue a proclamation urging all civic, fraternal, and religious organizations and public and private educational institutions to recognize, observe, and celebrate the month.

Specifically, the bill:

- Encourages all public schools to observe “American Founders’ Month” with appropriate instruction and activities.
- Establishes civic literacy as a priority of Florida’s K-20 education system.
- Requires the Just Read, Florida! Office to develop and provide access to sequenced, content-rich programming, instructional practices, and resources to increase students’ core knowledge and literacy skills including student attainment of state standards for social studies, science, and the arts.
- Requires students initially entering a Florida College System institution or state university in 2018-2019 and thereafter, to demonstrate civic literacy through successful completion of a civic literacy course or by achieving a passing score on an assessment adopted in rule by the State Board of Education or in regulation by the Board of Governors, as applicable.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2017.

II. Present Situation:

Florida has established mechanisms to increase the civic awareness and engagement among students through civic-engagement skills in the curriculum standards for all subjects,¹ and

¹ Section 1003.41(1), F.S.

specifically social studies;² a middle grades civics education course³ and end-of-course assessment;⁴ and the inclusion of such end-of-course assessment in the calculation of school grades.⁵

Priorities of the K-20 Education System

The mission of Florida's K-20 education system is to allow its students to increase their proficiency by allowing them the opportunity to expand their knowledge and skills through rigorous and relevant learning opportunities.⁶ As such, the priorities of Florida's K-20 education system include:⁷

- Demonstration that all students meet the expected academic standards consistently at all levels of their education.
- Learning and completion at all levels, so that all students demonstrate increased learning and completion at all levels, graduate from high school, and are prepared to enter postsecondary education without remediation.
- Alignment of standards and resources for every level of the K-20 education system.
- Improved educational leadership at all levels of K-20 education.
- Alignment of workforce education with skills required by the new global economy.
- Collaboration between parents, students, families, educational institutions, and communities as important to each individual student's success; the goals of Florida's K-20 education system are not guarantees that each individual student will succeed or that each individual school will perform at the level indicated in the goals.
- Comprehensive K-20 career and education planning to better prepare all students at every level for the transition from school to postsecondary education or work.

Patriotic Programs

District school boards are authorized to adopt rules that require patriotic programs in district schools which encourage respect for the United States government, the national anthem, and the flag.⁸ The law also specifies procedures for the playing of the national anthem and recitation of the pledge of allegiance to the flag in public schools and at school-sponsored functions.⁹ The pledge must be recited at the beginning of the day in each public school in the state.¹⁰ Students must be excused from reciting the pledge if his or her parent submits a written request.¹¹

² Section 1003.41(2)(d), F.S.

³ Section 1003.4156(1)(c), F.S. The one-semester civics education course must include the roles and responsibilities of federal, state, and local governments; the structures and functions of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government; and the meaning and significance of historic documents, such as the Articles of Confederation, the Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution of the United States. *Id.*

⁴ Section 1008.22(3)(b)1., F.S.

⁵ Section 1008.34(3)(b)1.d., F.S.

⁶ Section 1000.03(4), F.S.

⁷ *Id.* at (5).

⁸ Section 1003.44(1), F.S.

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ *Id.*

Postsecondary Requirements

Civics Instruction

There is no state civics requirement for students attending public postsecondary institutions in Florida.¹² Students in the Florida College System and State University System are offered opportunities to study civics through courses in their general education core curriculum, as well as in civics courses in specific programs of study.¹³

Florida law requires a student to complete at least one social science course as a part of the general education core degree requirement.¹⁴ The courses available to complete this requirement are in:¹⁵

- American History;
- Anthropology;
- Macroeconomics;
- American Government;
- Psychology; and
- Sociology.

Of the social science courses taken in 2014-15, 45 percent were civics related.¹⁶ Also, 17 percent of all university undergraduates, and 21 percent of all college students enrolled in college-credit courses took at least one civics-related course in 2014-2015.¹⁷

Degree Requirements

The following state-level requirements apply to students seeking an associate in arts or baccalaureate degree from a Florida public postsecondary institution:

- Completion of 36 semester hours of general education coursework in the areas of communication, humanities, mathematics, natural science, and social science.¹⁸
- Beginning with students initially entering a Florida College System institution or state university in 2015-2016 and thereafter, complete at least one identified core course in each subject area as part of the general education course requirements.¹⁹

¹² Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, *OPPAGA Research on Postsecondary Civics Education*, at 8, presentation to the House of Representatives PreK-12 Quality Subcommittee (Feb. 15, 2017), available at <http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?PublicationType=Committees&CommitteeId=2909&Session=2017&DocumentType=Meeting%20Packets&FileName=pkq%202-15-17.pdf>.

¹³ *Id.* at 10.

¹⁴ Section 1007.25(3), F.S.

¹⁵ Rule 6A-14.0303, F.A.C.

¹⁶ Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, *OPPAGA Research on Postsecondary Civics Education*, at 14, presentation to the House of Representatives PreK-12 Quality Subcommittee (Feb. 15, 2017), available at <http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?PublicationType=Committees&CommitteeId=2909&Session=2017&DocumentType=Meeting%20Packets&FileName=pkq%202-15-17.pdf>. Psychology was the most popular social science general education course.

¹⁷ *Id.* at 11. These include American History, Government, and Economics.

¹⁸ Section 1007.25, F.S. See also Rule 6A-10.024(2)(a) and (3)(a), F.A.C., Rule 6A-10.030(1) and (2), F.A.C., and BOG Regulation 6.017(1)(a).

¹⁹ Section 1007.25(3), F.S.

- Beginning with students initially entering a Florida College System institution or state university in 2014-2015 and thereafter, coursework for an associate in arts degree must include demonstration of competency in a foreign language.²⁰
- Completion of six semester hours of English coursework, six semester hours of other coursework in which the student is required to demonstrate college-level writing skills through multiple assignments, and six semester hours of mathematics at the level of college algebra or higher.²¹
- For associate in arts degrees, students initially entering a Florida College System institution in 2013-2014 and thereafter, must indicate a baccalaureate degree program offered by an institution of interest by the time the student earns 30 semester hours.²²
- For an associate in arts degree, completion of no more than 60 semester hours of college credit;²³ for a baccalaureate degree, completion of no more than 120 semester hours of college credit.²⁴

Students in associate in science and associate in applied science degree programs must satisfactorily complete a planned program of instruction comprised of the established credit hour length²⁵ and complete fifteen semester credit hours of general education coursework.²⁶

Just Read, Florida!

In 2001,²⁷ Governor Jeb Bush established Just Read, Florida! as a comprehensive and coordinated reading initiative intended to establish reading as a core value in this state. In 2006,²⁸ the Legislature created within the DOE the Just Read, Florida! Office. Among its duties, the Just Read, Florida! Office must:²⁹

- Create multiple designations of effective reading instruction, with accompanying credentials, which encourage all teachers to integrate reading instruction into their content areas.
- Train K-12 teachers and school principals on effective content-area-specific reading strategies. For secondary teachers, emphasis must be on technical text.
- Provide parents with information and strategies for assisting their children in reading in the content area.
- Provide technical assistance to school districts in the development and implementation of the K-12 comprehensive reading plan.
- Work with the Florida Center for Reading Research to provide information on research-based reading programs and effective reading in the content area strategies.
- Periodically review the Sunshine State Standards for reading at all grade levels.

²⁰ Section 1007.25(7), F.S.

²¹ Rule 6A-10.030, F.A.C. and BOG Regulation 6.017(1)(a)

²² Section 1007.23(3), F.S. and 6A-10.024(4), F.A.C.

²³ Students must achieve a cumulative grade point average of 2.0. Rule 6A-10.024, F.A.C.

²⁴ 1007.25(7) and (8), F.S.. See also Rule 6A-14.030(2), F.A.C., Rule 6A.10.024(3)(a), F.A.C., and BOG Regulation 6.017(1)(c). The 120 semester hour limit may be waived with prior approval by the Board of Governors for baccalaureate degree programs offered by state universities and by the State Board of Education for baccalaureate degree programs offered by Florida College System institutions. Section 1007.25(8), F.S.

²⁵ Rule 6A-6.0571, F.A.C.

²⁶ Rule 6A-14.030, F.A.C. and 6A-10.024(6)(b), F.A.C.

²⁷ Executive Order 01-260 (2001)

²⁸ Section 8, ch. 2006-74, L.O.F.

²⁹ Section 1001.215, F.S.

- Periodically review teacher certification examinations, including alternative certification exams, to ascertain whether the examinations measure the skills needed for research-based reading instruction and instructional strategies for teaching reading in the content areas.
- Work with approved teacher preparation programs to integrate research-based reading instructional strategies and reading in the content area instructional strategies.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

SB 1710 designates the month of September as “American Founders’ Month” and authorizes the Governor to issue a proclamation urging all civic, fraternal, and religious organizations and public and private educational institutions to recognize, observe, and celebrate the month.

Specifically, the bill:

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Priorities of the K-20 Education System

The bill extends the scope of Florida’s K-20 education system to establish civic literacy as a priority. Specifically, the bill includes as a priority of Florida’s K-20 education system that students “are prepared become civically engaged and knowledgeable adults who make positive contributions to their communities.”

Patriotic Programs

As a component of the required instruction relating to patriotic programs, the bill encourages all public schools in Florida to coordinate, at all grade levels, instruction related to our nation’s Founding Fathers in “American Founders’ Month.” Also, the bill encourages civic, fraternal, and religious organizations and public and private educational institutions to recognize and observe “American Founders’ Month” through programs, meetings, services, or celebrations in which state, county, and local government officials are invited to participate.

Postsecondary Requirements

The bill creates an additional requirement for students in degree programs at Florida public postsecondary institutions. The bill requires that, beginning with students initially entering a Florida College System institution or state university in 2018-2019 and thereafter, each student must demonstrate competency in civic literacy. Demonstration of competency may be through successful completion of a civic literacy course or by achieving a passing score on an assessment

adopted in State Board of Education rule or Board Governors regulation. The chairs of the SBE and BOG must jointly appoint a faculty committee to:

- Develop a new course in civic literacy or revise an existing general education core course.
- Establish course competencies and identify outcomes that include, at a minimum:
 - An understanding of the basic principles of American democracy and how they are applied in our republican form of government.
 - An understanding of the United States Constitution.
 - Knowledge of the founding documents and how they have shaped the nature and functions of our institutions of self-governance.
 - An understanding of landmark Supreme Court cases and their impact on law and society.

The bill does not appear to specify whether such provisions apply to all degree-seeking students, or only those in associate in arts and baccalaureate degree programs.

Additionally, the bill conforms statutory provisions relating to salary incentives for full-time law enforcement officers for award of an associate in arts degree by a state university; and a requirement that state universities and Florida College System institutions work with school districts to ensure that the high school curricula coordinates with general education curricula to prepare student for college-level work.

Just Read, Florida!

The bill requires the Just Read, Florida! Office to develop and provide access to sequenced, content-rich curriculum programming, instructional practices, and resources that help elementary schools use state-adopted instructional materials to increase students' core knowledge and literacy skills, including student attainment of the Next General Sunshine State Standards for social studies, science, and the arts.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2017.

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:

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 943.22, 1000.03, 1001.215, 1001.64, 1003.44, and 1007.25.

This bill creates section 683.1455 of 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.