

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to civic literacy; creating s.
3 683.1455, F.S.; designating the month of September
4 annually as "American Founders' Month"; authorizing
5 the Governor to annually issue a proclamation
6 containing specified information; amending s. 1000.03,
7 F.S.; revising the priorities of Florida's K-20
8 education system to include civic literacy; amending
9 s. 1001.215, F.S.; revising the duties of the Just
10 Read, Florida! Office to include developing and
11 providing access to certain resources for elementary
12 schools; amending s. 1003.44, F.S.; encouraging public
13 schools to coordinate certain instruction with
14 American Founders' Month; amending s. 1007.25, F.S.;
15 requiring postsecondary students to demonstrate
16 competency in civic literacy and providing
17 requirements therefor; providing for the appointment
18 of a faculty committee; requiring the committee to
19 develop or revise certain courses and establish
20 specified course competencies; amending ss. 943.22 and
21 1001.64, F.S.; conforming cross-references; providing
22 an effective date.

23
24 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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26 Section 1. Section 683.1455, Florida Statutes, is created
 27 to read:

28 683.1455 American Founders' Month.-

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

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

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

42 1000.03 Function, mission, and goals of the Florida K-20
 43 education system.-

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

46 (c) Civic literacy.-Students are prepared to become
 47 civically engaged and knowledgeable adults who make positive
 48 contributions to their communities.

49 Section 3. Subsections (4) through (11) of section
 50 1001.215, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (5)

51 through (12), respectively, and a new subsection (4) is added to
52 that section to read:

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

57 (4) Develop and provide access to sequenced, content-rich
58 curriculum programming, instructional practices, and resources
59 that help elementary schools use state-adopted instructional
60 materials to increase students' background knowledge and
61 literacy skills, including student attainment of the Next
62 Generation Sunshine State Standards for social studies, science,
63 and the arts.

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

66 1003.44 Patriotic programs; rules.—

67 (3) All public schools in the state, including charter
68 schools, are encouraged to coordinate, at all grade levels,
69 instruction related to our nation's founding fathers with
70 "American Founders' Month" pursuant to s. 683.1455.

71 Section 5. Subsections (4) through (11) of section
72 1007.25, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (5)
73 through (12), respectively, and a new subsection (4) is added to
74 that section to read:

75 1007.25 General education courses; common prerequisites;

76 | other degree requirements.—

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

90 | (a) Develop a new course in civic literacy or revise an
91 | existing general education core course to include civic
92 | literacy.

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

101 Section 6. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section
102 943.22, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

103 943.22 Salary incentive program for full-time officers.—

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

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

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

113 1001.64 Florida College System institution boards of
114 trustees; powers and duties.—

115 (7) Each board of trustees has responsibility for:
116 ensuring that students have access to general education courses
117 as identified in rule; requiring no more than 60 semester hours
118 of degree program coursework, including 36 semester hours of
119 general education coursework, for an associate in arts degree;
120 notifying students that earned hours in excess of 60 semester
121 hours may not be accepted by state universities; notifying
122 students of unique program prerequisites; and ensuring that
123 degree program coursework beyond general education coursework is
124 consistent with degree program prerequisite requirements adopted
125 pursuant to s. 1007.25(6) ~~s. 1007.25(5)~~.

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

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

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