

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: CS/SB 1480

INTRODUCER: Education Committee and Senator Stargel

SUBJECT: Civics Education

DATE: April 2, 2019

REVISED: _____

ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1. Olenick	Sikes	ED RC	Fav/CS
2.			

Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

I. Summary:

CS/SB 1480 requires all instructional materials for the middle school civics education course be reviewed and approved by Commissioner of Education (commissioner) in consultation with civics organizations and stakeholders. Errors and inaccuracies in state-adopted civics instructional materials, identified by the commissioner, must be corrected pursuant to current statutory procedures.

The bill also requires the commissioner to review the current state-adopted civics course materials and the civics statewide end-of-course (EOC) assessment and make recommendations for improvements by December 31, 2019.

The Department of Education (DOE) must complete a review of civics education course standards by December 31, 2020.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.

II. Present Situation:

Required Instruction

Florida law requires each school board to provide instruction regarding the history, significance and principles of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States, flag education, and civil government.¹

General Requirements for Middle Grades Promotion

Florida's Next Generation Sunshine State Standards for social studies include civics content in kindergarten through grade 8 and in grades 9 through 12.² In grades 6 through 8, a student must successfully complete three middle school or higher courses in social studies in order to be promoted to high school.³ One of the three courses must be on civics.⁴ The course curriculum must include the following topics:

- Roles and responsibilities of federal, state, and local governments;
- Structures and functions of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches;
- Meaning and significance of documents such as the Articles of Confederation, Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution of the United States.⁵

Students must take the civics statewide end-of-course (EOC) assessment, which counts toward 30 percent of the student's course grade.⁶ Results from the assessment are included in the school grades calculation for middle schools.⁷

The Florida Department of Education's (DOE) 2018 statewide assessment results, found that student performance on the civics EOC has increased by 2 percentage points (from 69% to 71%) from 2017 to 2018 and 10 percentage points from its inception in 2014 (from 61% to 71%).⁸ Achieving a Level 3 is considered a passing score on the assessment.⁹

Instructional Material Adoption and Review

The Commissioner of Education is required to annually determine the areas in which instructional materials shall be submitted for adoption, and by April 15 of each school year appoint three state or national experts in the content areas submitted for adoption to review the

¹ Section 1003.42(2)(a)-(e), F.S.

² See CPALMS, *Browse and Search Standards*, <http://www.cpalms.org/Public/search/Standard> (last visited March 28, 2019) (providing the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards for each subject area, by grade level).

³ Section 1003.4156(1)(c), F.S.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ See ss. 1003.4156(1)(c), 1008.24(3)(b)1.i., F.S.

⁸ Florida Department of Education, *Statewide Assessment Science and Social Studies* (2018), available at <http://www.fl DOE.org/core/fileparse.php/5668/urlt/81PacketNGSSS18.pdf>.

⁹ Florida Department of Education, *2018-19 Next Generation Sunshine State Standards End-of-Course Assessment Fact Sheet* (2018), available at <http://www.fl DOE.org/core/fileparse.php/5662/urlt/NGSSEOCFS1819.pdf>.

instructional materials and evaluate the content for alignment with the applicable Next Generation Sunshine State Standards.¹⁰

The instructional materials evaluation process is established in law and governed by rules of the State Board of Education.¹¹ Subject areas for the current adoption year and the adoption schedule are posted on the Florida Department of Education Instructional Materials (FDOEIM) website.¹² The term for state adoption of instructional materials is five years, with an option to extend, if needed.

Middle grades civics education is included in the Social Studies adoption cycle.¹³ According to the DOE, social studies course materials were adopted in the 2016-17 adoption cycle. Two members of the Florida Joint Center for Citizenship reviewed materials in the 2016-17 social studies adoption.¹⁴ Social Studies, including civics, is scheduled for state adoption again in the 2022-2023 adoption year.

District school boards or a consortium of school boards may also implement an instructional material program to review, recommend, adopt and purchase instructional materials.¹⁵ For a district school board that chooses to perform its own instructional materials program, by March 31 of each year, the district school superintendent must certify to DOE that all instructional materials for core courses used by the district are aligned with state standards.¹⁶

Accuracy of Instructional Materials

In addition to relying on statements of publishers or manufacturers of instructional materials, the commissioner may conduct an independent investigation to determine the accuracy of state-adopted instructional materials. When errors are confirmed the publishers of the materials are required to provide to each district school board that has purchased the materials the corrections in a format approved by the DOE. The commissioner may remove materials from the list of state-adopted material if they find that the content is in error and the publisher refuses to correct the error when notified by the DOE.¹⁷

Civics Institutes

Various institutes, organizations, and projects exist throughout the state and country with the mission to develop educational resources and instruction to engage, educate and empower individuals with civics education.

¹⁰ Section 1006.29, F.S.

¹¹ See rule 6A-7.0710, F.A.C. See ss. 1006.34, F.S.

¹² Florida Department of Education, Instructional Materials website, <http://www.fl doe.org/academics/standards/instructional-materials> (last visited March 28, 2019).

¹³ Staff of the Department of Education, *Analysis for HB 807* (2019).

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ Section 1006.283(1), F.S.

¹⁶ *Id.*

¹⁷ Section 1006.35(1)-(3), F.S.

Florida Joint Center for Citizenship

The Florida Joint Center for Citizenship (Center) is a partnership between the Lou Frey Institute of Politics and Government at the University of Central Florida and the Bob Graham Center for Public Service at the University of Florida.¹⁸ The Center offers K-12 curricular resources to support effective civics instruction, provides Civics360, an online student learning tool for middle school civics, and assists teachers and students in preparing for the civics EOC assessment.¹⁹

Bill of Rights Institute

Established in September 1999, the Bill of Rights Institute is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization that works to engage, educate, and empower individuals with a passion for the freedom and opportunity that exist in a free society. The institute develops educational resources and programs for a network of more than 50,000 educators and 70,000 students nationwide.²⁰

Hillsdale College

Founded in 1844, Hillsdale College is a private university in Michigan that has a strong focus in civics and civics education.²¹

The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History

Founded in 1994, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History is the leading nonprofit organization dedicated to K–12 history education while also serving the general public. The institute's mission is to promote the knowledge and understanding of American history through educational programs and resources.²²

iCivics

iCivics is an organization that works to ensure every student in America receives a quality and engaging civics education and graduates from high school well prepared and enthusiastic for citizenship.²³

The Constitutional Sources Project

The Constitutional Sources Project mission is to increase understanding, facilitate research, and encourage discussion of the U.S. Constitution by connecting individuals — including students, teachers, lawyers and judges — with the documentary history of its creation, ratification, and amendment.²⁴

¹⁸ Florida Joint Center for Citizenship, *About the Joint Center*, <http://floridacitizen.org/pages/about-the-joint-center> (last visited March 27, 2019).

¹⁹ *Id.*

²⁰ The Bill of Rights Institute, *About the Institute*, <https://billofrightsinstitute.org/> (last visited April 2, 2019).

²¹ Hillsdale College, <https://www.hillsdale.edu/> (last visited April 2, 2019)

²² Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, *About*, <https://www.gilderlehrman.org/about> (last visited April 2, 2019).

²³ iCivics. *About*, <https://www.icivics.org/about> (last visited April 2, 2019).

²⁴ ConSource, *About*, <https://www.consource.org/about/> (last visited April 2, 2019).

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill requires that all instructional materials for the civics education course required for middle school students be reviewed and approved by the Commissioner of Education (commissioner) in consultation with organizations that may include, but are not limited to:

- The Florida Joint Center for Citizenship,
- The Bill of Rights Institute,
- Hillsdale College,
- The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History,
- iCivics, and
- The Constitutional Sources Project,

The review must also be in consultation with stakeholders including educators, school administrators, postsecondary representatives, elected officials, business and industry leaders, parents, and the public. The bill further specifies that, after consulting such entities and individuals, any errors and inaccuracies identified by the commissioner in the current state-adopted materials must be corrected in accordance with law.

By December 31, 2019, the bill requires the commissioner to review current state-adopted civics instructional materials and the statewide civics end-of-course assessment and provide recommendations for improvements. The bill also requires the Department of Education to complete a review of civics education course standards by December 31, 2020.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2019.

IV. Constitutional Issues:**A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

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 section 1003.4156 of the Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:****CS by Education on April 2, 2019.**

The committee substitute requires all instructional materials for the middle school civics education course be reviewed and approved by Florida's Commissioner of Education in consultation with civics organizations and stakeholders. Errors and inaccuracies in state-adopted civics instructional materials, identified by the Commissioner, must be corrected pursuant to current statutory procedures. The committee substitute requires the Commissioner to review the current state-adopted civics course materials and the civics statewide EOC assessment and make recommendations for improvements by December 31, 2019. The DOE must complete a review of civics education course standards by December 31, 2020.

B. Amendments:

None.