

By the Committee on Education; and Senator Stargel

581-03745-19

20191480c1

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to civics education; amending s.
3 1003.4156, F.S.; requiring that instructional
4 materials for certain civics education courses be
5 reviewed and approved by the Commissioner of Education
6 in consultation with certain entities and individuals;
7 requiring the commissioner to identify errors and
8 inaccuracies in state-adopted materials; requiring
9 such errors and inaccuracies to be corrected;
10 requiring the commissioner to consult with specified
11 organizations and stakeholders to review civics
12 instructional materials and test specifications by a
13 specified date; requiring the commissioner to make
14 recommendations for improving such materials and test
15 specifications by a specified date; requiring the
16 department to review statewide civics education course
17 standards by a specified date; deleting obsolete
18 language; providing an effective date.

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

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22 Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section
23 1003.4156, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

24 1003.4156 General requirements for middle grades
25 promotion.—

26 (1) In order for a student to be promoted to high school
27 from a school that includes middle grades 6, 7, and 8, the
28 student must successfully complete the following courses:

29 (c) Three middle grades or higher courses in social

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30 studies. ~~Beginning with students entering grade 6 in the 2012-~~
31 ~~2013 school year,~~ One of these courses must be at least a one-
32 semester civics education course that includes the roles and
33 responsibilities of federal, state, and local governments; the
34 structures and functions of the legislative, executive, and
35 judicial branches of government; and the meaning and
36 significance of historic documents, such as the Articles of
37 Confederation, the Declaration of Independence, and the
38 Constitution of the United States. The instructional materials
39 for the civics education course must be reviewed and approved by
40 the Commissioner of Education in consultation with organizations
41 that may include, but are not limited to, the Florida Joint
42 Center for Citizenship, the Bill of Rights Institute, Hillsdale
43 College, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History,
44 iCivics, and the Constitutional Sources Project, and in
45 consultation with educators, school administrators,
46 postsecondary education representatives, elected officials,
47 business and industry leaders, parents, and the public. Any
48 errors and inaccuracies the commissioner identifies in state-
49 adopted materials must be corrected pursuant to s. 1006.35.
50 After consulting with such entities and individuals, the
51 commissioner shall review the current state-approved civics
52 education course instructional materials and the statewide EOC
53 assessment test specifications and shall make recommendations
54 for improvements to the materials and test specifications by
55 December 31, 2019. By December 31, 2020, the department shall
56 complete a review of the statewide civics education course
57 standards. ~~Beginning with the 2013-2014 school year,~~ Each
58 student's performance on the statewide, standardized EOC

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59 assessment in civics education required under s. 1008.22
60 constitutes 30 percent of the student's final course grade. A
61 middle grades student who transfers into the state's public
62 school system from out of country, out of state, a private
63 school, or a home education program after the beginning of the
64 second term of grade 8 is not required to meet the civics
65 education requirement for promotion from the middle grades if
66 the student's transcript documents passage of three courses in
67 social studies or two year-long courses in social studies that
68 include coverage of civics education.

69 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.