

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to the study of the Bible and
 3 religion; amending s. 1003.45, F.S.; requiring each
 4 school district to offer specified courses relating to
 5 religion, Hebrew Scriptures, and the Bible to certain
 6 students as elective courses; requiring such courses
 7 be included in the Course Code Directory; providing
 8 course requirements; providing an effective date.

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

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 12 Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 1003.45, Florida
 13 Statutes, is amended to read:

14 1003.45 ~~Permitting~~ Study of the Bible and religion;
 15 permitting brief meditation period.—

16 (1) (a) The district school board shall ~~may~~ install in the
 17 public schools in the district a secular program of education
 18 including, but not limited to:

- 19 1. An objective study of religion.
- 20 2. An objective study of the Bible, including, but not
 21 limited to, a course on the Hebrew Scriptures and Old Testament
 22 of the Bible; a course on the New Testament of the Bible; and a
 23 course on the Hebrew Scriptures, the Old Testament of the Bible,
 24 and the New Testament of the Bible. A student may not be
 25 required to use a specific translation of the Hebrew Scriptures

26 | or Bible as the sole text for the course.

27 | (b) The Department of Education must include the courses
 28 | in the Course Code Directory.

29 | (c) A course offered pursuant to this section must:

30 | 1. Be offered as an elective course for students in grades
 31 | 9 through 12.

32 | 2. Follow all state and federal laws and guidelines in
 33 | maintaining religious neutrality and accommodating the diverse
 34 | religious views, traditions, and perspectives of all students in
 35 | the school. A course offered pursuant to this section may not
 36 | endorse, favor, or promote or disfavor or show hostility toward
 37 | a particular religion, religious perspective, or nonreligious
 38 | faith, ~~an objective study of the Bible and of religion.~~

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