

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: CS/HB 807 Civics Education
SPONSOR(S): Education Committee, Aloupis
TIED BILLS: None **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 1480

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) PreK-12 Quality Subcommittee	14 Y, 0 N	Sleap	Guy
2) PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee	10 Y, 0 N	Seifert	Potvin
3) Education Committee	14 Y, 1 N, As CS	Sleap	Hassell

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The bill requires all instructional materials for the civics education course required for middle school students be reviewed and approved by Florida's Commissioner of Education in consultation with civics organizations and stakeholders. Any errors or inaccuracies in state-adopted civics materials identified by the Commissioner, must be corrected pursuant to current statutory procedures.

The bill requires the Commissioner to review and make recommendations for improvements to current state-adopted civics material and the statewide civics end-of-course assessment by December 31, 2019. The Department of Education is required to review civics education course standards by December 31, 2020.

The bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact.

The bill has an effective date of July 1, 2019.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Civics Education in Florida

Present Situation

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."¹ Civic literacy and preparing students to become civically engaged and knowledgeable adults who positively contribute to their communities is a priority of Florida's K-20 education system.²

Florida law requires each school board to provide instruction regarding the history, significance and principles of the Declaration of the Independence and the Constitution of the United States, flag education, and civil government.³ The law also requires districts to provide a character-development program in kindergarten through grade 12. Each school district must develop or adopt a curriculum for its K-12 character-development program and submit it to the Florida Department of Education (DOE) for approval.⁴ The character development curriculum must "stress the qualities of patriotism; responsibility; citizenship; kindness; respect for authority, life, liberty, and personal property; honesty; charity; self-control; racial, ethnic, and religious tolerance; and cooperation."⁵

Currently, Florida's Next Generation Sunshine State Standards for social studies include civics content in kindergarten through grade 8 and in grades 9 through 12.⁶ In the middle grades, a student must successfully complete three middle school or higher courses in social studies in order to be promoted to high school.⁷ One of the three courses must be on civics.⁸ The course curriculum must include the roles and responsibilities of federal, state, and local governments; the structures and functions of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches; the meaning and significance of documents such as the Articles of Confederation, Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution of the United States.⁹

Students must take the civics statewide end-of-course (EOC) assessment, which counts toward 30 percent of the student's course grade.¹⁰ Results from the assessment are included in the school grades calculation for middle schools.¹¹

The DOE's 2018 statewide assessment results, shown in the figure below, 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%).¹² Achieving a Level 3 is considered a passing score on the assessment.¹³

¹ Section 1000.03(4), F.S.

² Section 1000.03(5)(c), F.S.

³ Section 1003.42(2)(a)-(e), F.S.

⁴ Section 1003.42(2)(s), F.S.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ See CPALMS, *Browse and Search Standards*, <http://www.cpalms.org/Public/search/Standard> (last visited March 1, 2019) (providing the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards for each subject area, by grade level).

⁷ Section 1003.4156(1)(c), F.S.

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ *Id.*

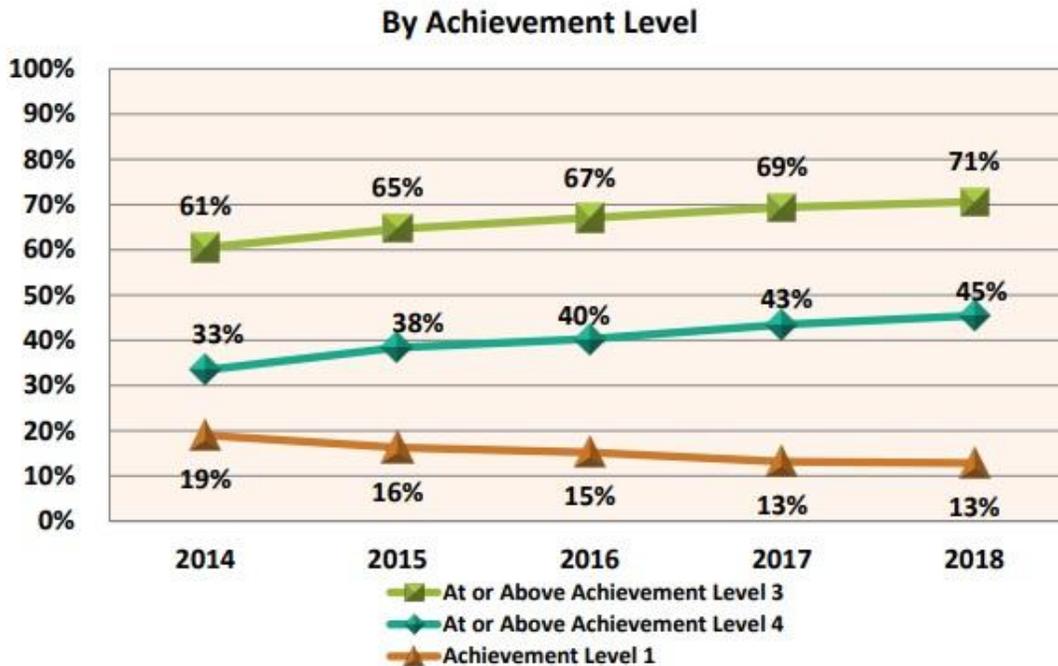
¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ See ss. 1003.4156(1)(c), 1008.24(3)(b)1.i., F.S.

¹² Florida Department of Education, *Statewide Assessment Science and Social Studies* (2018), available at <http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/5668/urlt/81PacketNGSSS18.pdf>.

¹³ Florida Department of Education, *2018-19 Next Generation Sunshine State Standards End-of-Course Assessment Fact Sheet* (2018), available at <http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/5662/urlt/NGSSSEOCFS1819.pdf>.

Social Studies – Civics EOC



To address civics education in Florida, Governor DeSantis issued Executive Order 19-32 in January 2019, directing the Commissioner of Education to review Florida's K-12 academic standards and identify opportunities to prepare high school graduates to be knowledgeable citizens, particularly in the principles of the United States Constitution.¹⁴ The Commissioner must report on the review by January 1, 2020.¹⁵

Instructional Materials Adoption and Accuracy

Present Situation

In Florida, specific courses within selected subject areas and grade levels are called for adoption on a rotating basis.¹⁶ Subject areas for the current adoption year and the adoption schedule are posted on the Florida Department of Education Instructional Materials (FDOEIM) website.¹⁷ The instructional materials evaluation process and how the submitted instructional materials for adoption will be evaluated, are governed by rules of the State Board of Education.¹⁸

District school boards or a consortium of school boards may also implement an instructional material program to review, recommend, adopt and purchase instructional materials.¹⁹ 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.²⁰

¹⁴ Fla. Exec. Order No. 19-32 (January 31, 2019).

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ Section 1006.29, F.S.

¹⁷ Florida Department of Education, Instructional Materials website, <http://www.fldoe.org/academics/standards/instructional-materials> (last visited March 5, 2019).

¹⁸ See rule 6A-7.0710, F.A.C. See ss. 1006.34, F.S.

¹⁹ Section 1006.283(1), F.S.

²⁰ *Id.*

To ensure the accuracy of state-adopted instructional materials, Florida's Commissioner of Education may conduct an independent investigation of material, whereby publishers must provide corrected material or the materials are removed from the state-adopted list.²¹

Florida Joint Center for Citizenship

Background

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.²² 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.²³ For educators in Florida, the Center offers professional development programs on civics education topics.²⁴ The Center provides the opportunity for students and teachers to have hands-on experiences with civic activities such as mock elections and school based service learning.²⁵

Effect of Proposed Changes

The bill requires all instructional materials, used for the one-semester civics education course in middle school, be reviewed and approved by the Commissioner of Education in consultation with organizations that may include, but are not limited to: the Florida Joint Center for Citizenship; Bill of Rights Institute; Hillsdale College; Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History; iCivics; and the Constitutional Sources Project. The review must also be in consultation with stakeholders made up of educators, school administrators, postsecondary representatives, elected officials, business and industry leaders, parents, and the public.

The bill requires any errors and inaccuracies in state-adopted civics materials, identified by the Commissioner, be corrected pursuant to current statutory procedures.

By December 31, 2019, the bill requires the Commissioner to review current state-adopted civics instructional materials and the statewide civics EOC and provide recommendations for improvements. The bill requires the DOE to complete a review of civics education course standards by December 31, 2020.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Amends section 1003.4156(1)(c), F.S., requiring that instructional materials for certain civics education courses be reviewed and approved by the Commissioner of Education in consultation with certain entities and individuals; requiring the commissioner to identify errors and inaccuracies in state-adopted materials; requiring such errors and inaccuracies to be corrected; requiring the commissioner to review and provide recommendations for certain instructional materials and test specifications by a specified date; requiring the Department of Education to review statewide civics education course standards by a specified date; and deleting obsolete provisions.

Section 2. Provides an effective date of July 1, 2019.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

²¹ Section 1006.35, F.S.

²² Florida Joint Center for Citizenship, *About the Joint Center*, <http://floridacitizen.org/pages/about-the-joint-center> (last visited March 4, 2019).

²³ *Id.*

²⁴ *Id.*

²⁵ *Id.*

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

None.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

On March 28, 2019, the Education Committee adopted one amendment and reported the bill favorably as a committee substitute. The amendment 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 amendment 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.

The analysis is drafted to the committee substitute as amended by the Education Committee.