

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 review and provide  
11          recommendations for certain instructional materials  
12          and test specifications by a specified date; requiring  
13          the Department of Education to review statewide civics  
14          education course standards by a specified date;  
15          deleting obsolete provisions; providing an effective  
16          date.

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

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20           Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section  
21   1003.4156, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

22           1003.4156 General requirements for middle grades  
23   promotion.—

24           (1) In order for a student to be promoted to high school  
25   from a school that includes middle grades 6, 7, and 8, the

26 | student must successfully complete the following courses:  
27 |       (c) Three middle grades or higher courses in social  
28 | studies. ~~Beginning with students entering grade 6 in the 2012-~~  
29 | ~~2013 school year,~~ One of these courses must be at least a one-  
30 | semester civics education course that includes the roles and  
31 | responsibilities of federal, state, and local governments; the  
32 | structures and functions of the legislative, executive, and  
33 | judicial branches of government; and the meaning and  
34 | significance of historic documents, such as the Articles of  
35 | Confederation, the Declaration of Independence, and the  
36 | Constitution of the United States. All instructional materials  
37 | for the civics education course must be reviewed and approved by  
38 | the Commissioner of Education, in consultation with  
39 | organizations that may include, but are not limited to, the  
40 | Florida Joint Center for Citizenship, the Bill of Rights  
41 | Institute, Hillsdale College, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of  
42 | American History, iCivics, and the Constitutional Sources  
43 | Project, and with educators, school administrators,  
44 | postsecondary education representatives, elected officials,  
45 | business and industry leaders, parents, and the public. Any  
46 | errors and inaccuracies the commissioner identifies in state-  
47 | adopted materials must be corrected pursuant to s. 1006.35.  
48 | After consulting with such entities and individuals, the  
49 | commissioner shall review the current state-approved civics  
50 | education course instructional materials and the test

51 specifications for the statewide, standardized EOC assessment in  
52 civics education and shall make recommendations for improvements  
53 to the materials and test specifications by December 31, 2019.  
54 By December 31, 2020, the department shall complete a review of  
55 the statewide civics education course standards. ~~Beginning with~~  
56 ~~the 2013-2014 school year,~~ Each student's performance on the  
57 statewide, standardized EOC assessment in civics education  
58 required under s. 1008.22 constitutes 30 percent of the  
59 student's final course grade. A middle grades student who  
60 transfers into the state's public school system from out of  
61 country, out of state, a private school, or a home education  
62 program after the beginning of the second term of grade 8 is not  
63 required to meet the civics education requirement for promotion  
64 from the middle grades if the student's transcript documents  
65 passage of three courses in social studies or two year-long  
66 courses in social studies that include coverage of civics  
67 education.

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