

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; amending s. 1003.44,  
 16          F.S.; providing that hours devoted to certain programs  
 17          satisfy the service work requirement for the Florida  
 18          Bright Futures Scholarship Program; providing an  
 19          effective date.

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

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 23           Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section  
 24   1003.4156, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:  
 25           1003.4156 General requirements for middle grades

26 promotion.—

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

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

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

71 Section 2. Subsection (5) is added to section 1003.44,  
72 Florida Statutes, to read:

73 1003.44 Patriotic programs; rules.—

74 (5) The hours that a high school student devotes to the  
75 Florida Debate Initiative, also known as the Central Florida

76 | Debate Initiative, the YMCA Youth and Government program, the  
77 | American Legion Boys State program, the American Legion Girls  
78 | State program, or other similar programs approved by the  
79 | commissioner shall count towards the service work requirement  
80 | for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program.

81 | Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.