

By the Committees on Appropriations; and Education; and Senators Book, Hooper, Rader, Berman, Cruz, Stewart, and Rodriguez

576-04268-20

20201628c2

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to Holocaust education; amending s.
3 1003.42, F.S.; including the study of a specified
4 policy against anti-Semitism in specified instruction;
5 requiring each school district to annually certify and
6 provide evidence to the department that certain
7 instructional requirements have been met; authorizing
8 the department to work with a certain task force and
9 other entities for specified purposes; recognizing the
10 second week in November as Holocaust Education Week;
11 providing an effective date.

12
13 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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15 Section 1. Paragraph (g) of subsection (2) of section
16 1003.42, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

17 1003.42 Required instruction.—

18 (2) Members of the instructional staff of the public
19 schools, subject to the rules of the State Board of Education
20 and the district school board, shall teach efficiently and
21 faithfully, using the books and materials required that meet the
22 highest standards for professionalism and historical accuracy,
23 following the prescribed courses of study, and employing
24 approved methods of instruction, the following:

25 (g) The history of the Holocaust (1933-1945), the
26 systematic, planned annihilation of European Jews and other
27 groups by Nazi Germany, a watershed event in the history of
28 humanity, to be taught in a manner that leads to an
29 investigation of human behavior, an understanding of the

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30 ramifications of prejudice, racism, and stereotyping, and an
31 examination of what it means to be a responsible and respectful
32 person, for the purposes of encouraging tolerance of diversity
33 in a pluralistic society and for nurturing and protecting
34 democratic values and institutions, including the policy
35 against, definition of, and historical and current examples of
36 anti-Semitism, as described in s. 1000.05(7), and the prevention
37 of anti-Semitism. Each school district must annually certify and
38 provide evidence to the department, in a manner prescribed by
39 the department, that the requirements of this paragraph are met.
40 The department shall prepare and offer standards and curriculum
41 for the instruction required by this paragraph and may seek
42 input from the Commissioner of Education's Task Force on
43 Holocaust Education or from any state or nationally recognized
44 Holocaust educational organization. The department may contract
45 with the Commissioner of Education's Task Force on Holocaust
46 Education and other entities, including the Holocaust Education
47 Resource Council, Florida State University's Holocaust Institute
48 for Educators, the Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education
49 Center of Florida, the Holocaust Education and Documentation
50 Center, Inc., Florida Atlantic University's Center for Holocaust
51 and Human Rights Education, the University of Miami's Holocaust
52 Teacher Institute, the Holocaust Museum and Janet G. and Harvey
53 D. Cohen Education Center, the University of Florida Center for
54 Jewish Studies, the Northeast Florida Center for Holocaust and
55 Human Rights Education, and the Florida Holocaust Museum or
56 other state or nationally recognized Holocaust educational
57 organizations, to develop training for instructional personnel
58 and grade-appropriate classroom resources to support the

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59 developed curriculum. The second week in November of each year
60 must be recognized in the public K-20 education system as
61 Holocaust Education Week, in commemoration of the anniversary of
62 Kristallnacht, widely recognized as a precipitating event that
63 led to the Holocaust.

64
65 The State Board of Education is encouraged to adopt standards
66 and pursue assessment of the requirements of this subsection. A
67 character development program that incorporates the values of
68 the recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor and that is
69 offered as part of a social studies, English Language Arts, or
70 other schoolwide character building and veteran awareness
71 initiative meets the requirements of paragraphs (s) and (t).

72 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.