

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, 2020.