1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to civic education; amending s. 3 1003.44, F.S.; requiring the Commissioner of Education to develop minimum criteria for a nonpartisan civic 4 5 literacy practicum; authorizing the integration of 6 such practicum into a specified course; requiring the 7 commissioner to develop a process to verify successful 8 completion of such practicum; providing requirements 9 for such criteria and practicum; providing the hours 10 devoted to such practicum and the practicum may be 11 used for specified purposes; authorizing a school to 12 integrate a nonpartisan civic literacy practicum into requirements for academic awards; requiring the State 13 14 Board of Education to annually designate public 15 schools that meet specified criteria as Freedom 16 Schools; requiring the state board to establish the 17 criteria for designation as a Freedom School; providing requirements for such criteria; providing an 18 19 effective date.

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

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Section 1. Subsection (5) of section 1003.44, Florida Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (6), and a new subsection (5) is added to that section, to read:

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1003.44 Patriotic programs; rules.-

- (5) (a) In order to help students evaluate the roles, rights, and responsibilities of United States citizens and determine methods of active participation in society, government, and the political system, the commissioner shall develop minimum criteria for a nonpartisan civic literacy practicum that may be incorporated into a school's curriculum for the high school United States Government course under s. 1003.4282(3)(d), beginning with the 2021-2022 school year. The commissioner also shall develop a process by which a district school board can verify that a student successfully completed a practicum.
 - 1. A civic literacy practicum must require a student to:
- a. Identify a civic issue that impacts his or her community.
- b. Rigorously research the issue from multiple perspectives and develop a plan for his or her personal involvement in addressing the issue.
- c. Create a portfolio to evaluate and reflect upon his or her experience and the outcomes or likely outcomes of his or her involvement. A portfolio must, at minimum, include research, evidence, and a written plan of involvement.
- 2. A civic literacy practicum must be nonpartisan, focus on addressing at least one community issue, and promote a student's ability to consider differing points of view and

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engage in civil discourse with individuals who hold an opposing
opinion.

- (b) The hours outside of classroom instruction that a student devotes to the nonpartisan civic literacy practicum to implement his or her plan of involvement may be counted toward meeting community service requirements for participation in the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program. School districts should include and accept nonpartisan civic literacy practicum activities and hours in requirements for academic awards, especially those awards that currently include community service as a criterion or selection factor.
- (c) The State Board of Education shall annually designate each public school in the state that provides students with high-quality civic learning, including civic-engagement skills, as a Freedom School. The state board shall establish the criteria for designation as a Freedom School. The criteria must include:
- 1. The extent to which strategies to develop high-quality civic learning, including civic-engagement skills, are integrated into the classroom using best instructional practices.
- 2. The scope of integration of high-quality civic learning, including civic-engagement skills, across the school's curricula.
 - 3. The extent to which the school supports

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interdisci	plinary, t	eacher-led	profes	ssional	lear	ning	communit	ies
to support	continuou	s improvem	ent in	instruc	ction	and	student	
achievement.								

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- 4. The percentage of students graduating with a standard high school diploma who successfully completed a civic literacy practicum and earned community service hours as provided in this subsection.
 - Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.