

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to "Victims of Communism Day";  
3           creating s. 683.334, F.S.; requiring the Governor to  
4           proclaim November 7 of each year as "Victims of  
5           Communism Day"; requiring the day to be observed in  
6           public schools; requiring certain high school students  
7           to receive specified instruction; providing an  
8           effective date.

9  
10           WHEREAS, over 100 years have passed since the Bolshevik  
11           Revolution in Russia and the formation of the first communist  
12           government under Vladimir Lenin, leading to decades of  
13           oppression and violence under communist regimes throughout the  
14           world, and

15           WHEREAS, based on the economic philosophies of Karl Marx,  
16           communism has proven incompatible with the ideals of liberty,  
17           prosperity, and dignity of human life and has given rise to such  
18           infamous totalitarian dictators as Joseph Stalin, Mao Zedong, Hồ  
19           Chi'Minh, and Pol Pot, and

20           WHEREAS, communist regimes worldwide have killed more than  
21           100 million people and subjected countless others to  
22           exploitation and unspeakable atrocities, with victims  
23           representing many different ethnicities, creeds, and  
24           backgrounds, and

25           WHEREAS, through false promises of equality and liberation,

26 | communist regimes have systematically robbed their own citizens  
27 | of the rights of freedom of worship, freedom of speech, and  
28 | freedom of association through coercion, brutality, and fear,  
29 | and

30 |       WHEREAS, many victims of communism were persecuted as  
31 | political prisoners for speaking out against these regimes, and  
32 | others were killed in genocidal state-sponsored purges of  
33 | undesirable groups, and

34 |       WHEREAS, in addition to violating basic human rights,  
35 | communist regimes have suppressed intellectual freedom, cultural  
36 | life, and self-determination movements in more than 40 nations,  
37 | NOW, THEREFORE,

38 |  
39 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

40 |  
41 |       Section 1. Section 683.334, Florida Statutes, is created  
42 | to read:

43 |       683.334 Victims of Communism Day.—

44 |       (1) The Governor shall proclaim November 7 of each year as  
45 | "Victims of Communism Day," which shall be suitably observed in  
46 | the public schools of the state as a day honoring the 100  
47 | million people who have fallen victim to communist regimes  
48 | across the world and which shall be suitably observed by such  
49 | public exercise in the state capital and elsewhere as the  
50 | Governor may designate.

51        (2) If November 7 falls on a day that is not a school day,  
52 "Victims of Communism Day" shall be observed in the public  
53 schools in the state on the preceding school day or on such  
54 school day as may be designated by local school authorities.

55        (3) Beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, high school  
56 students enrolled in the United States Government class required  
57 by s. 1003.4282 must receive at least 45 minutes of instruction  
58 on "Victims of Communism Day" on topics such as Mao Zedong in  
59 China, Joseph Stalin and the Soviet System, Fidel Castro and the  
60 Cuban Revolution, Vladimir Lenin and the Russian Revolution, Hồ  
61 Chi Minh in Vietnam, and Nicolás Maduro in Venezuela, and how  
62 the victims suffered under these regimes through suppression of  
63 speech, poverty, starvation, migration, and systemic lethal  
64 violence against civilians.

65        Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.