

By the Committee on Governmental Oversight and Accountability;
and Senators Rodriguez, Garcia, Hutson, and Rodrigues

585-03333-21

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to victims of communism; amending s.
3 683.01, F.S.; establishing November 7 as the Victims
4 of Communism legal holiday; requiring the Legislature
5 to annually observe a moment of silence in observance
6 of the victims of communism; requiring high school
7 students in a United States Government course to
8 receive certain instruction on "Victims of Communism
9 Day"; providing an effective date.

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

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

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

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

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30 and

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

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

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

41
42 Section 1. Present paragraphs (q) through (u) of subsection
43 (1) of section 683.01, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as
44 paragraphs (r) through (v), respectively, and a new paragraph
45 (q) is added to that subsection, to read:

46 683.01 Legal holidays.—

47 (1) The legal holidays, which are also public holidays, are
48 the following:

49 (q) Victims of Communism Day, November 7.

50 Section 2. The Legislature shall, on the final day of each
51 regular legislative session, observe a moment of silence in
52 observance of the victims of communism.

53 Section 3. Beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, high
54 school students enrolled in the United States Government class
55 required by s. 1003.4282, Florida Statutes, must receive at
56 least 45 minutes of instruction on "Victims of Communism Day" on
57 topics such as Mao Zedong in China, Joseph Stalin and the Soviet
58 System, Fidel Castro and the Cuban Revolution, Vladimir Lenin

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59 and the Russian Revolution, Ho Chi Minh in Vietnam, and Nicolas
60 Maduro in Venezuela and how the victims suffered under these
61 regimes through suppression of speech, poverty, starvation,
62 migration, and systemic lethal violence against civilians.

63 Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.