

HB 611

2021

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to civic literacy education; requiring
3 the Commissioner of Education to develop criteria for
4 a civic literacy practicum that meets certain goals
5 beginning in a specified school year; providing
6 purpose and requirements for the practicum;
7 authorizing time spent on specified civic engagement
8 activities to count toward requirements for certain
9 scholarships and academic awards; providing an
10 effective date.

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

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

17 1003.44 Patriotic programs; rules.—

18 (5) (a) The commissioner shall develop minimum criteria for
19 a civic literacy practicum that helps students evaluate the
20 roles, rights, and responsibilities of United States citizens
21 and identify effective methods of active participation in
22 society, government, and the political system. The practicum may
23 be incorporated into a school's curriculum for the high school
24 United States Government course under s. 1003.4282(3) (d)
25 beginning in the 2022-2023 school year.

26 (b) The purpose of the practicum is to inspire meaningful
27 civic engagement and help students learn how governmental
28 entities at the local, state, or federal level interact with the
29 public which they represent and serve. The practicum must
30 provide students with an opportunity to be civically engaged
31 through any of the following activities:

32 1. Participation in an unpaid internship at a governmental
33 entity.

34 2. A series of simulations or observations of one or more
35 governmental entities performing their core functions in
36 relation to the public. Such functions may include
37 administrative, legislative, or judicial functions and other
38 official business conducted by a governmental entity.

39 3. Learning about the United States citizenship
40 naturalization process and attending a United States citizenship
41 naturalization oath ceremony.

42 (c) The practicum must require a student to complete a
43 research paper that must include all of the following:

44 1. Reflection on the student's experience participating in
45 the civic engagement activity.

46 2. Explanation of the significance of the governmental
47 entity's role in the student's community, the state, or the
48 nation.

49 3. Explanation of how the governmental entity is
50 responsive to the public.

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51 (d) The hours outside of classroom instruction that a
52 student devotes to an unpaid civic engagement activity under
53 paragraph (b) may count toward the community service
54 requirements for participation in the Florida Bright Futures
55 Scholarship Program. School districts are encouraged to include
56 and accept civic literacy practicum activities and hours toward
57 requirements for academic awards, especially those awards that
58 include community service as a criterion or selection factor.

59 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.