

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 and by public exercise; requiring a day
7 other than November 7 to be observed by public schools
8 under a specified circumstance; requiring certain high
9 school students to receive specified instruction;
10 providing an effective date.

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

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

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

26 backgrounds, and

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

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

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

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

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43 Section 1. Section 683.334, Florida Statutes, is created
 44 to read:

45 683.334 Victims of Communism Day.-

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

51 exercise in the State Capitol and elsewhere as the Governor may
52 designate.

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

57 (3) Beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, high school
58 students enrolled in the United States Government class required
59 by s. 1003.4282 must receive at least 45 minutes of instruction
60 on "Victims of Communism Day" on topics such as Mao Zedong and
61 the Cultural Revolution, Joseph Stalin and the Soviet System,
62 Fidel Castro and the Cuban Revolution, Vladimir Lenin and the
63 Russian Revolution, Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge, and Nicolás
64 Maduro and the Chavismo movement, and how victims suffered under
65 these regimes through suppression of speech, poverty,
66 starvation, migration, and systemic lethal violence.

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