

By Senator Simon

3-01652-23

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to required African-American  
3       instruction; amending s. 1003.42, F.S.; requiring each  
4       school district to certify and provide certain  
5       evidence to the Department of Education regarding  
6       certain instruction; authorizing the department to  
7       seek input from and contract with certain educational  
8       organizations for specified purposes; providing an  
9       effective date.

10  
11 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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13       Section 1. Paragraph (h) of subsection (2) of section  
14       1003.42, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

15       1003.42 Required instruction.—

16       (2) Members of the instructional staff of the public  
17       schools, subject to the rules of the State Board of Education  
18       and the district school board, shall teach efficiently and  
19       faithfully, using the books and materials required that meet the  
20       highest standards for professionalism and historical accuracy,  
21       following the prescribed courses of study, and employing  
22       approved methods of instruction, the following:

23       (h) The history of African Americans, including the history  
24       of African peoples before the political conflicts that led to  
25       the development of slavery, the passage to America, the  
26       enslavement experience, abolition, and the history and  
27       contributions of Americans of the African diaspora to society.  
28       Students shall develop an understanding of the ramifications of  
29       prejudice, racism, and stereotyping on individual freedoms, and

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30 examine what it means to be a responsible and respectful person,  
31 for the purpose of encouraging tolerance of diversity in a  
32 pluralistic society and for nurturing and protecting democratic  
33 values and institutions. Instruction shall include the roles and  
34 contributions of individuals from all walks of life and their  
35 endeavors to learn and thrive throughout history as artists,  
36 scientists, educators, businesspeople, influential thinkers,  
37 members of the faith community, and political and governmental  
38 leaders and the courageous steps they took to fulfill the  
39 promise of democracy and unite the nation. Instructional  
40 materials shall include the vital contributions of African  
41 Americans to build and strengthen American society and celebrate  
42 the inspirational stories of African Americans who prospered,  
43 even in the most difficult circumstances. Instructional  
44 personnel may facilitate discussions and use curricula to  
45 address, in an age-appropriate manner, how the individual  
46 freedoms of persons have been infringed by slavery, racial  
47 oppression, racial segregation, and racial discrimination, as  
48 well as topics relating to the enactment and enforcement of laws  
49 resulting in racial oppression, racial segregation, and racial  
50 discrimination and how recognition of these freedoms has  
51 overturned these unjust laws. However, classroom instruction and  
52 curriculum may not be used to indoctrinate or persuade students  
53 to a particular point of view inconsistent with the principles  
54 enumerated in subsection (3) or the state academic standards.  
55 Each school district must annually certify and provide evidence  
56 to the department, in a manner prescribed by the department,  
57 that the requirements of this paragraph are met. The department  
58 shall prepare and offer standards and curriculum for the

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59 instruction required by this paragraph and may seek input from  
60 the Commissioner of Education's African American History Task  
61 Force or from any state or nationally recognized African-  
62 American educational organizations. The department may contract  
63 with any state or nationally recognized African-American  
64 educational organizations to develop training for instructional  
65 personnel and grade-appropriate classroom resources to support  
66 the developed curriculum.

67  
68 The State Board of Education is encouraged to adopt standards  
69 and pursue assessment of the requirements of this subsection.  
70 Instructional programming that incorporates the values of the  
71 recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor and that is  
72 offered as part of a social studies, English Language Arts, or  
73 other schoolwide character building and veteran awareness  
74 initiative meets the requirements of paragraph (t).

75 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.