

By Senator Ingoglia

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to required instruction; providing a
3 short title; amending s. 1003.42, F.S.; requiring
4 instruction on the history of African Americans to
5 include a comprehensive account of the sociopolitical
6 circumstances surrounding slavery, including which
7 political parties supported slavery by adopting pro-
8 slavery tenets as part of their platform; 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. This act may be cited as the "Kamala Harris
14 Truth in Slavery Teaching Act."

15 Section 2. Paragraph (h) of subsection (2) of section
16 1003.42, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

17 1003.42 Required instruction.—

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

25 (h) The history of African Americans, including the history
26 of African peoples before the political conflicts that led to
27 the development of slavery;~~;~~ the passage to America;~~;~~ the
28 enslavement experience; a comprehensive account of the
29 sociopolitical circumstances surrounding slavery, including

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30 which political parties supported slavery by adopting pro-
31 slavery tenets to their party platform;~~7~~ abolition;~~7~~ and the
32 history and contributions of Americans of the African diaspora
33 to society. Students shall develop an understanding of the
34 ramifications of prejudice, racism, and stereotyping on
35 individual freedoms, and examine what it means to be a
36 responsible and respectful person, for the purpose of
37 encouraging tolerance of diversity in a pluralistic society and
38 for nurturing and protecting democratic values and institutions.
39 Instruction shall include the roles and contributions of
40 individuals from all walks of life and their endeavors to learn
41 and thrive throughout history as artists, scientists, educators,
42 businesspeople, influential thinkers, members of the faith
43 community, and political and governmental leaders and the
44 courageous steps they took to fulfill the promise of democracy
45 and unite the nation. Instructional materials shall include the
46 vital contributions of African Americans to build and strengthen
47 American society and celebrate the inspirational stories of
48 African Americans who prospered, even in the most difficult
49 circumstances. Instructional personnel may facilitate
50 discussions and use curricula to address, in an age-appropriate
51 manner, how the individual freedoms of persons have been
52 infringed by slavery, racial oppression, racial segregation, and
53 racial discrimination, as well as topics relating to the
54 enactment and enforcement of laws resulting in racial
55 oppression, racial segregation, and racial discrimination and
56 how recognition of these freedoms has overturned these unjust
57 laws. However, classroom instruction and curriculum may not be
58 used to indoctrinate or persuade students to a particular point

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59 of view inconsistent with the principles enumerated in
60 subsection (3) or the state academic standards. Each school
61 district must annually certify and provide evidence to the
62 department, in a manner prescribed by the department, that the
63 requirements of this paragraph are met. The department shall
64 prepare and offer standards and curriculum for the instruction
65 required by this paragraph and may seek input from the
66 Commissioner of Education's African American History Task Force
67 or from any state or nationally recognized African-American
68 educational organizations. The department may contract with any
69 state or nationally recognized African-American educational
70 organizations to develop training for instructional personnel
71 and grade-appropriate classroom resources to support the
72 developed curriculum.

73
74 The State Board of Education is encouraged to adopt standards
75 and pursue assessment of the requirements of this subsection.
76 Instructional programming that incorporates the values of the
77 recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor and that is
78 offered as part of a social studies, English Language Arts, or
79 other schoolwide character building and veteran awareness
80 initiative meets the requirements of paragraph (u).

81 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.