

By Senator Collins

14-01141-24

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to the History of Communism Task  
3       Force; amending s. 1003.42, F.S.; requiring  
4       instruction in public schools on the history of  
5       communism; requiring each school district to annually  
6       certify to the department that it provided instruction  
7       on the subject; creating s. 1003.441, F.S.; creating  
8       the History of Communism Task Force within the  
9       Department of Education; requiring the task force to  
10      work with the Division of Historical Resources within  
11      the Department of State to make recommendations by a  
12      specified date to the State Board of Education and the  
13      Commissioner of Education for curriculum standards and  
14      instruction on communist history; providing  
15      requirements for the recommendations; requiring the  
16      board to develop a curriculum based on the  
17      recommendations; authorizing the task force to  
18      recommend to the Legislature the creation of a museum  
19      of communist history; providing an effective date.

20  
21 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
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23           Section 1. Paragraph (v) is added to subsection (2) of  
24       section 1003.42, Florida Statutes, to read:

25           1003.42 Required instruction.—

26           (2) Members of the instructional staff of the public  
27       schools, subject to the rules of the State Board of Education  
28       and the district school board, shall teach efficiently and  
29       faithfully, using the books and materials required that meet the

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30 highest standards for professionalism and historical accuracy,  
31 following the prescribed courses of study, and employing  
32 approved methods of instruction, the following:

33 (v)1. The history of communism.

34 2. Each school district shall annually certify to the  
35 department, in a format prescribed by the department, that it  
36 faithfully provided instruction on this subject, as specified by  
37 the board pursuant to s. 1003.441(3).

38  
39 The State Board of Education is encouraged to adopt standards  
40 and pursue assessment of the requirements of this subsection.  
41 Instructional programming that incorporates the values of the  
42 recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor and that is  
43 offered as part of a social studies, English Language Arts, or  
44 other schoolwide character building and veteran awareness  
45 initiative meets the requirements of paragraph (u).

46 Section 2. Section 1003.441, Florida Statutes, is created  
47 to read:

48 1003.441 History of Communism Task Force.—

49 (1) There is created within the Department of Education the  
50 History of Communism Task Force. Members of the task force shall  
51 be appointed by the Governor.

52 (2) The task force shall work with the Division of  
53 Historical Resources within the Department of State to make  
54 recommendations by July 1, 2025, to the State Board of Education  
55 and the Commissioner of Education for curriculum standards and  
56 instruction on the history of communism for kindergarten through  
57 grade 12.

58 (a) Such recommendations must include:

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59       1. The history of domestic communist movements and their  
60 tactics within the United States.

61       2. The philosophy and lineages of communist thought,  
62 including Marxism.

63       3. Foreign communist movements of the 20th century, the  
64 atrocities committed by such movements, and the threat they  
65 posed to the United States and its allies. Such movements  
66 include, but are not limited to, the Great Proletarian Cultural  
67 Revolution in China, the Third Reich of Nazi Germany, other  
68 communist regimes, and the economic, industrial, and political  
69 events that preceded and contributed to the formation of such  
70 movements.

71       4. The communist socioeconomic policies of Cuba, the  
72 history of the Communist Party of Cuba, and the spread of  
73 communism and communist guerrilla forces in Latin America.

74       (b) Such instruction must inform students that communism  
75 poses a threat to freedom.

76       (3) The board shall develop a curriculum on the history of  
77 communism based on the recommendations of the task force.

78       (4) The task force may recommend to the Legislature the  
79 creation of a museum of communist history.

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