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CS/HB 1291

2024 Legislature

1  
 2 An act relating to educator preparation programs;  
 3 amending ss. 1004.04, 1004.85, 1012.56, and 1012.562,  
 4 F.S.; prohibiting the courses and curriculum of  
 5 teacher preparation programs, postsecondary educator  
 6 preparation institutes, professional learning  
 7 certification programs, and school leader preparation  
 8 programs from distorting certain events and including  
 9 certain curriculum and instruction; requiring teacher  
 10 preparation programs, postsecondary educator  
 11 preparation institutes, professional learning  
 12 certification programs, and school leader preparation  
 13 programs to afford candidates certain opportunities;  
 14 providing an effective date.

15  
 16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

17  
 18 Section 1. Paragraph (e) is added to subsection (2) of  
 19 section 1004.04, Florida Statutes, to read:

20 1004.04 Public accountability and state approval for  
 21 teacher preparation programs.—

22 (2) UNIFORM CORE CURRICULA AND CANDIDATE ASSESSMENT.—

23 (e) Teacher preparation program courses:

24 1. May not distort significant historical events or  
 25 include a curriculum or instruction that teaches identity

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26 | politics, violates s. 1000.05, or is based on theories that  
 27 | systemic racism, sexism, oppression, and privilege are inherent  
 28 | in the institutions of the United States and were created to  
 29 | maintain social, political, and economic inequities.

30 | 2. Must afford candidates the opportunity to think  
 31 | critically, achieve mastery of academic program content, learn  
 32 | instructional strategies, and demonstrate competence.

33 | Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section  
 34 | 1004.85, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

35 | 1004.85 Postsecondary educator preparation institutes.—

36 | (2) (a) Postsecondary institutions that are accredited or  
 37 | approved as described in State Board of Education rule may seek  
 38 | approval from the Department of Education to create educator  
 39 | preparation institutes for the purpose of providing any or all  
 40 | of the following:

41 | 1. Professional learning instruction to assist teachers in  
 42 | improving classroom instruction and in meeting certification or  
 43 | recertification requirements.

44 | 2. Instruction to assist potential and existing substitute  
 45 | teachers in performing their duties.

46 | 3. Instruction to assist paraprofessionals in meeting  
 47 | education and training requirements.

48 | 4. Instruction for baccalaureate degree holders to become  
 49 | certified teachers as provided in this section in order to  
 50 | increase routes to the classroom for professionals who hold a

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51 | baccalaureate degree and college graduates who were not  
 52 | education majors.

53 |         5. Instruction and professional learning for part-time and  
 54 | full-time nondegreed teachers of career programs under s.  
 55 | 1012.39(1)(c).

56 |         6. Instruction that does not distort significant  
 57 | historical events or include a curriculum or instruction that  
 58 | teaches identity politics, violates s. 1000.05, or is based on  
 59 | theories that systemic racism, sexism, oppression, and privilege  
 60 | are inherent in the institutions of the United States and were  
 61 | created to maintain social, political, and economic inequities.  
 62 | Courses and instruction within the educator preparation  
 63 | institute must afford candidates the opportunity to think  
 64 | critically, achieve mastery of academic program content, learn  
 65 | instructional strategies, and demonstrate competence.

66 |         Section 3. Paragraph (b) of subsection (8) of section  
 67 | 1012.56, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as paragraph (c),  
 68 | paragraph (a) of subsection (7) is amended, and a new paragraph  
 69 | (b) is added to subsection (8) of that section, to read:

70 |         1012.56 Educator certification requirements.—

71 |         (7) TYPES AND TERMS OF CERTIFICATION.—

72 |         (a) The Department of Education shall issue a professional  
 73 | certificate for a period not to exceed 5 years to any applicant  
 74 | who fulfills one of the following:

75 |             1. Meets all the applicable requirements outlined in

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76 subsection (2).

77 2. For a professional certificate covering grades 6  
78 through 12:

79 a. Meets the applicable requirements of paragraphs (2) (a) -  
80 (h).

81 b. Holds a master's or higher degree in the area of  
82 science, technology, engineering, or mathematics.

83 c. Teaches a high school course in the subject of the  
84 advanced degree.

85 d. Is rated highly effective as determined by the  
86 teacher's performance evaluation under s. 1012.34, based in part  
87 on student performance as measured by a statewide, standardized  
88 assessment or an Advanced Placement, Advanced International  
89 Certificate of Education, or International Baccalaureate  
90 examination.

91 e. Achieves a passing score on the Florida professional  
92 education competency examination required by state board rule.

93 3. Meets the applicable requirements of paragraphs (2) (a) -  
94 (h) and completes a professional learning certification program  
95 approved by the department pursuant to paragraph (8) (c) ~~(8) (b)~~  
96 or an educator preparation institute approved by the department  
97 pursuant to s. 1004.85. An applicant who completes one of these  
98 programs and is rated highly effective as determined by his or  
99 her performance evaluation under s. 1012.34 is not required to  
100 take or achieve a passing score on the professional education

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101 competency examination in order to be awarded a professional  
 102 certificate.

103  
 104 At least 1 year before an individual's temporary certificate is  
 105 set to expire, the department shall electronically notify the  
 106 individual of the date on which his or her certificate will  
 107 expire and provide a list of each method by which the  
 108 qualifications for a professional certificate can be completed.

109 (8) PROFESSIONAL LEARNING CERTIFICATION PROGRAM.—

110 (b) Professional learning certification program courses:

111 1. May not distort significant historical events or  
 112 include curriculum or instruction that teaches identity  
 113 politics, violates s. 1000.05, or is based on theories that  
 114 systemic racism, sexism, oppression, and privilege are inherent  
 115 in the institutions of the United States and were created to  
 116 maintain social, political, and economic inequities.

117 2. Must afford candidates the opportunity to think  
 118 critically, achieve mastery of academic program content, learn  
 119 instructional strategies, and demonstrate competence.

120 Section 4. Subsection (4) of section 1012.562, Florida  
 121 Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (5), and a new subsection  
 122 (4) is added to that section, to read:

123 1012.562 Public accountability and state approval of  
 124 school leader preparation programs.—The Department of Education  
 125 shall establish a process for the approval of Level I and Level

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126 II school leader preparation programs that will enable aspiring  
 127 school leaders to obtain their certificate in educational  
 128 leadership under s. 1012.56. School leader preparation programs  
 129 must be competency-based, aligned to the principal leadership  
 130 standards adopted by the state board, and open to individuals  
 131 employed by public schools, including charter schools and  
 132 virtual schools. Level I programs lead to initial certification  
 133 in educational leadership for the purpose of preparing  
 134 individuals to serve as school administrators. Level II programs  
 135 build upon Level I training and lead to renewal certification as  
 136 a school principal.

137 (4) PROGRAM PROHIBITIONS; REQUIREMENTS.—

138 (a) School leader preparation programs may not distort  
 139 significant historical events or include curriculum or  
 140 instruction that teaches identity politics, violates s. 1000.05,  
 141 or is based on theories that systemic racism, sexism,  
 142 oppression, and privilege are inherent in the institutions of  
 143 the United States and were created to maintain social,  
 144 political, and economic inequities.

145 (b) School leader preparation programs must afford  
 146 candidates the opportunity to demonstrate mastery of program  
 147 content, including instructional leadership strategies, coaching  
 148 development, school safety, and continuous improvement efforts.

149 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.