

Amendment No.

CHAMBER ACTION

Senate

House

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Representative Booth offered the following:

Amendment (with title amendment)

Remove everything after the enacting clause and insert:

Section 1. Section 683.221, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

683.221 Florida Speech and Debate Week.—

(1) February 1 through February 7 shall be annually designated as "Florida Speech and Debate Week."

(2) Florida Speech and Debate Week shall be observed for all of the following purposes:

(a) To recognize the academic, civic, and leadership value of competitive speech and debate.

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14 (b) To honor educators, coaches, judges, and school
15 districts that support debate programming.

16 (c) To inspire students statewide to participate in debate
17 as a pathway to civic engagement.

18 (d) To promote Florida's role as the national leader in
19 scholastic speech and debate.

20 (3) Public and charter schools, state agencies, and other
21 entities may observe Florida Speech and Debate Week.

22 **Section 2. Section 1000.09, Florida Statutes, is created**
23 **to read:**

24 1000.09 Competitive speech and debate.—

25 (1) CREATION, DESIGNATION, AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—Subject
26 to legislative appropriation and in alignment with, and in
27 support of, the Department of Education and the program it
28 operates called the Florida Civics and Debate Initiative (FCDI),
29 the Florida Debate Initiative, Inc., (FDI) is established as
30 this state's nonprofit statewide speech and debate organization
31 that manages, develops, and expands K-20 civics, speech, and
32 debate programs.

33 (a)1. The FDI shall support and expand access to statewide
34 civic literacy and speech and debate programs by undertaking the
35 following, which list is not exhaustive:

36 a. Educating and training coaches and students.

37 b. Training judges and volunteers.

38 c. Promoting educational competition opportunities.

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39 d. Leading training and leadership development
40 experiences.

41 e. Establishing competition standards.

42 f. Maintaining statewide data reporting.

43 g. Assisting the FCDI, upon its request, in civics-focused
44 education, training, and programming initiatives.

45 2. This paragraph may not be construed to prohibit
46 schools, districts, or students from participating in civics,
47 speech and debate activities, leagues, or competitions not
48 operated or supervised by the FDI.

49 (b) The FDI may establish and maintain partnerships with
50 school districts, charter schools, state agencies, postsecondary
51 institutions, nonprofit organizations, private entities, and
52 national or international organizations to achieve the purposes
53 of this section, including collaborative efforts with the FCDI.
54 In such collaboration:

55 1. The FCDI and FDI shall jointly host and operate the
56 annual National Civics and Debate Championship known as The
57 Great Debate, a nationally recognized synthesis of civics
58 education and debate competition that challenges students' civic
59 knowledge, debate skills, and endurance through multi-day,
60 multi-event competition.

61 2. The FCDI shall lead specific civics immersion events,
62 including FCDI Day at the Capitol and the Great American Civics

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63 Challenge, which includes the Ronald Reagan Presidential Debates
64 and the We The People Civics Showdown.

65 3. The FDI shall provide logistical support, debate
66 tournament operations support, and tournament coordination
67 support for The Great Debate and other collaborative initiatives
68 to advance statewide speech and debate opportunities.

69 (2) AUTHORIZED USES OF FUNDS.—The FDI may expend program
70 funds on all of the following:

71 (a) Administrative operations, including staffing,
72 insurance, compliance, reporting, and statewide infrastructure.

73 (b) Programmatic operations, including curriculum,
74 training, summer programs, workshops, camps, and mentorship
75 programs.

76 (c) Tournament operations, including logistics, staff,
77 judge training, technology, awards, and regional team
78 operations.

79 (d) Travel, lodging, training, and transportation for
80 participants, including local, state, and national travel to
81 competitions hosted by the FDI, FCDI, or other civics, speech,
82 and debate organizations.

83 (e) Public-private partnership development, including
84 sponsorship and philanthropic support.

85 (f) Memberships, affiliations, and participation fees
86 related to civics education, speech, debate, leadership, and
87 academic competition programs, provided such memberships,

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88 affiliations, and participation advance the purposes of this
89 section.

90 (3) REPORTING.—The FDI shall make publicly available
91 online and submit, no later than December 31 of each year, an
92 annual report to the Department of Education which includes all
93 of the following:

94 (a) Student participation in statewide FDI programs, by
95 district and demographics.

96 (b) The number of active student teams in statewide FDI
97 speech and debate programs.

98 (c) Competitive and educational outcomes of statewide FDI
99 programs.

100 (d) A categorized summary of all expenditures.

101
102 No later than November 1 of each year, the FCDI shall provide
103 the FDI with the FCDI's most current reporting and data
104 regarding paragraphs (a)-(d) above in order for the FDI to
105 accurately report on the outcomes and expenditures related to
106 any joint programming.

107 **Section 3.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

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110 **T I T L E A M E N D M E N T**

111 Remove everything before the enacting clause and insert:

112 A bill to be entitled

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113 An act relating to speech and debate education;
114 creating s. 683.221, F.S.; designating Florida Speech
115 and Debate Week annually in February; providing
116 purposes for the annual observance; authorizing
117 specified entities to observe Florida Speech and
118 Debate Week; creating s. 1000.09, F.S.; subject to
119 legislative appropriation, establishing the Florida
120 Debate Initiative, Inc., (FDI) as a statewide speech
121 and debate organization that performs certain
122 functions in support of the Florida Civics and Debate
123 Initiative (FCDI) in the Department of Education;
124 providing the duties of the FDI; providing
125 construction; authorizing the FDI to establish and
126 maintain certain partnerships; specifying activities
127 for the FDI and FCDI; providing authorized uses of
128 funds for the FDI; requiring the FDI to publish a
129 report online and submit the report to the department
130 annually by a specified date; specifying requirements
131 for the report; requiring the FCDI to annually provide
132 certain data to the FDI by a specified date; providing
133 an effective date.

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