

By Senator Bernard

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to required instruction; amending s. 1003.42, F.S.; providing requirements for instruction on the study of Hispanic contributions to the United States; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (q) of subsection (2) of section 42, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.42 Required instruction.—

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

(q) The study of Hispanic contributions to the United States. Such instruction must include:

1. For grades K through 2, Hispanic American holidays, symbols, and traditions; Hispanic Americans who have made significant contributions to the country; how Hispanic Americans fit into the broader American social fabric; and the importance of respect, fairness, and kindness to all people.

2. For grades 3 through 5, Spanish exploration of the New World; the role of Hispanic leaders in the defense of the United States; influences of Hispanic culture in American life; Hispanic Americans who have excelled in the arts and sciences,

24-01454A-26

20261472

30 business, and education; Hispanic Americans who have
31 demonstrated perseverance, courage, and civic responsibility;
32 and how fairness, hard work, and equality strengthen democracy.

33 3. For grades 6 through 8, the impact of Spanish
34 colonization and Hispanic communities on the growth of the
35 United States; how United States expansion affected Hispanic
36 populations; Hispanic contributions during significant periods
37 of United States history; how Hispanic Americans overcame
38 barriers to achieve equality and opportunity; how Hispanic
39 American experiences reflect the nation's founding principles of
40 liberty and equality; how prejudice, racism, and stereotyping
41 limit individual freedoms; and how recognition of freedoms helps
42 overturn unjust laws.

43 4. For grades 9 through 12, the role of Hispanic people in
44 United States exploration, colonization, and expansion; Hispanic
45 American participation in major United States conflicts;
46 Hispanic American contributions to United States economic
47 growth; the influence of Hispanic leaders in advancing civil
48 rights; Hispanic American contributions to art, music,
49 literature, science, and education; how Hispanic identity has
50 evolved within American society; how hard work, merit, and
51 responsibility align with the pursuit of happiness and success;
52 instances where Hispanic Americans' freedoms were infringed upon
53 and how those injustices were addressed; Hispanic American
54 contributions to civic life and governance; and stories of
55 Hispanic Americans who prospered through perseverance and
56 innovation.

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58 The State Board of Education is encouraged to adopt standards

24-01454A-26

20261472

59 and pursue assessment of the requirements of this subsection.
60 Instructional programming that incorporates the values of the
61 recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor and that is
62 offered as part of a social studies, English Language Arts, or
63 other schoolwide character building and veteran awareness
64 initiative meets the requirements of paragraph (u).

65 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.