

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Education Pre-K - 12 Committee

BILL: SB 1422
 INTRODUCER: Senator Altman
 SUBJECT: Public School Instruction
 DATE: February 18, 2012 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Carrouth	deMarsh-Mathues	ED	Pre-meeting
2.	_____	_____	BC	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

The bill requires that the events surrounding the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and the impact of those events on the nation be included within required instruction for public school students.

This bill amends section 1003.42 of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Section 1003.42, F.S., establishes components of required instruction for public school students. Current law specifies that instructional staff teach the following content:

- The history and content of the Declaration of Independence, to include specific consents which include in part including national sovereignty, and natural law;
- The history, meaning, significance, and effect of the provisions of the Constitution of the United States with emphasis on each of the ten amendments that make up the Bill of Rights;
- The arguments in support of adopting our republican form of government, as they are embodied in the most important of the Federalist Papers;
- Flag education, including proper flag display and flag salute;
- The elements of civil government, including the primary functions of and interrelationships between the Federal Government, the state, and its counties, municipalities, school districts, and special districts;
- The history of the United States, including the period of discovery, early colonies, the War for Independence, the Civil War, the expansion of the United States to its present boundaries, the world wars, and the civil rights movement to the present;

- The history of the Holocaust;
- The history of African Americans;
- The elementary principles of agriculture;
- The true effects of all alcoholic beverages and narcotics upon the human body and mind;
- Kindness to animals;
- The history of the state;
- The conservation of natural resources;
- Comprehensive health education that addresses concepts of community health; consumer health; environmental health; family life, including in part, an awareness of the benefits of sexual abstinence as the expected standard and the consequences of teenage pregnancy; mental and emotional health; and dating violence and abuse;
- Such additional materials, subjects, courses, or fields in such grades as are prescribed by law or by rules of the State Board of Education and the district school board in fulfilling the requirements of law;
- The study of Hispanic contributions to the United States;
- The study of women's contributions to the United States;
- The nature and importance of free enterprise to the United States economy.
- A character-development program in kindergarten through grade 12; and
- In order to encourage patriotism, the sacrifices that veterans have made in serving our country and protecting democratic values worldwide.

Additionally, federal law designates September 11 as Patriot Day in honor of the individuals who lost their lives as a result of the terrorist attacks against the United States on September 11, 2001.¹

Although current law does not require instruction on the impact of 9-11 on our nation, the Department of Education (DOE) website includes multiple resources to support educators and students.²

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill requires that the events surrounding the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and the impact of those events on the nation be included within required instruction for public school students. Although the bill does not include a specific timeframe for the required instruction, school districts would most likely incorporate a remembrance of these events within instruction and school-related activities on Patriot Day, September 11, of each year.

¹ Public Law 107-89. *See* 36 U.S.C. s.144.

² *See* <http://www.fldoe.org/bii/humanities/pdc.asp>.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

School districts will be able to use resources currently available from the Department of Education at no cost.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.