

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

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

BILL: SB172

SPONSOR: Senator Saunders

SUBJECT: Schools/Courses of Study

DATE: February 1, 2000 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Esner</u>	<u>O'Farrell</u>	<u>ED</u>	<u>Favorable</u>
2.	_____	_____	<u>FP</u>	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

This bill requires Florida's schools to provide instruction in patriotism, the sacrifices that veterans have made in serving our country, and protecting democratic values worldwide. Instruction must occur on or before Veteran's Day and Memorial Day. The instructional staff is encouraged to use the assistance of local veterans when practicable.

This bill amends the following section of the Florida Statutes: 233.061.

II. Present Situation:

Florida's public schools, according to s.233.061 F.S., must provide instruction for all courses required for high school graduation and appropriate instruction designed to ensure that students meet state standards adopted by the State Board of Education in the following subject areas: reading and other language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, foreign languages, health and physical education, and the arts. The Sunshine State Standards State Board of Education rule 6A-1.09401, adopted June 6, 1996, requires each district school board to incorporate the standards into the district Pupil Progression Plan. The benchmark standards, including social studies, describe what students should know and be able to do at four progression levels. The Student Performance Standards rule also states, "The public schools shall provide appropriate instruction to assist students in the achievement of these standards."

The Sunshine State Standards (social studies) provide for instruction that promotes patriotism, the sacrifices that veterans have made in serving our country, and protecting democratic values worldwide. These concepts can be taught throughout the school year in social studies classes at all grade levels.

Florida's social studies standards incorporate patriotism, the sacrifices that veterans have made in serving our country, and protecting democratic values worldwide. The following are samples of the social studies objectives:

- PreK-2 Knows people and events honored in commemorative holidays that originated prior to 1880 (i.e. Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Independence Day, and Flag Day); Knows why important buildings, statues, and monuments (veteran's memorials) are associated with state and national history; Knows traditionally patriotic activities and various holidays that reflect the shared values, principles, and beliefs of Americans; Understands that the Constitution is a written document that states that the fundamental purposes of American Government are to protect individual rights and promote the common good; and Knows the qualities of a good citizen (e.g., honesty, courage, and patriotism).
- 3-5 Understands how individuals, ideas, decisions and events can influence history; Knows significant historical documents and the principal ideas expressed in them (e.g., Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, and the Bill of Rights); Knows the social and political consequences of industrialization and urbanization in the United States after 1880; Knows the political causes and outcomes of World War I; Understands the political circumstances leading to the involvement of the United States in World War II and the significant military events and personalities that shaped the course of the war; and Knows the political and military aspects of United States foreign relations since World War II.
- 6-8 Knows the factors involved in the development of cities and industries (e.g., religious needs and the need for military protection); Understands ways that significant individuals and events influenced economic, social, and political systems in the United States after 1880; Knows the essential ideas of American constitutional government that are expressed in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the Federalist Papers, and other writings; and Understands the history of the rights, liberties, and obligations of citizenship in the United States.
- 9-12 Understands the significant military and political events that took place during the American Revolution; Understands significant events leading up to the United States involvement in World War I and the political, social, and economic results of that conflict in Europe and the United States; Knows the origins and effects of the involvement of the United States in World War II; and Knows significant political events and issues that have shaped domestic policy decisions in contemporary America.

Most schools take advantage of resources that are available in their state, cities, towns and communities when relevant to the lesson being taught or to provide background prior to the study of a topic.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Will require specific instruction related to patriotism, the sacrifices that veterans have made in serving our country, and protecting democratic values worldwide prior to Veteran's Day and Memorial Day in Florida's public schools. Principals and teachers are encouraged to use the assistance of local veterans when practicable when providing instruction in patriotism, the sacrifices that veterans have made in serving our country, and protecting democratic values worldwide.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None

C. Government Sector Impact:

None

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

None.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.
