

**STORAGE NAME:** h0907.ei

**DATE:** March 28, 2000

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION INNOVATION  
ANALYSIS**

**BILL #:** HB 907

**RELATING TO:** Courses of Study

**SPONSOR(S):** Representative Bilirakis

**TIED BILL(S):** none

**ORIGINATING COMMITTEE(S)/COMMITTEE(S) OF REFERENCE:**

(1) EDUCATION INNOVATION

(2)

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I. SUMMARY:

HB 907 requires instruction in public schools to include the sacrifices that veterans have made in serving our country and protecting democratic values worldwide, for the purpose of encouraging patriotism. The bill requires the instruction to take place on or prior to Veterans' Day and Memorial Day and encourages the instructional staff to use local veterans when practicable.

II. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS:

A. DOES THE BILL SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:

- |                                   |                              |  |   |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|--|---|
| 1. <u>Less Government</u>         | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | N/A <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 2. <u>Lower Taxes</u>             | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>            | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. <u>Individual Freedom</u>      | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>            | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. <u>Personal Responsibility</u> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>            | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. <u>Family Empowerment</u>      | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>            | N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

For any principle that received a "no" above, please explain:

The bill requires districts, schools, and teachers to add to their curriculum the subject of the sacrifices that veterans have made in serving our country. However, this provides a service to children through the direct participation of schools, teachers and veterans.

B. PRESENT SITUATION:

**Required Instruction**

Section 233.061(1), F.S., requires each school district to provide courses in the following subject areas: reading and other language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, foreign languages, health and physical education, and the arts. Furthermore, 233.061(2), F.S., requires teaching the following:

- Declaration of Independence
- Arguments in support of a republican form of government
- United States Constitution and its relation to government structure
- Flag education, including proper display and salute
- Elements of civil governments
- History of the Holocaust
- History of African Americans
- Elementary principles of agriculture
- The effects of alcohol and narcotics upon the human body
- Kindness to animals
- The history of the state
- Conservation of natural resources
- Comprehensive health education
- The study of Hispanic contributions to the United States
- The study of women's contributions to the United States
- Additional materials, subjects, courses, or fields as prescribed by law or rule

The Florida Legislature has amended the above list several times. Past changes include:

- 1999 Requirement of Hispanic and women's contributions to the United States
- 1997 Requirement that civil government instruction include the primary functions and inter-relationships between various levels of government; inclusion of

comprehensive health education; and removal of the specific requirement for teaching effects of alcohol and narcotics

1994 Requirement for instruction in history of African-Americans and of the Holocaust

Although the bill does not require new textbooks to incorporate these studies into the curriculum, publishers of textbooks do take into consideration required curriculums when they determine what to include in textbooks.

**C. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:**

The bill adds to the list of the required instructional areas the sacrifices that veterans have made in serving our country and protecting democratic values worldwide, for the purpose of encouraging patriotism. The bill requires that such instruction take place on or prior to Veterans' Day and Memorial Day. The bill encourages the instructional staff to use local veterans when practicable.

**D. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS:**

This section need be completed only in the discretion of the Committee.

**III. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT:**

**A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:**

1. Revenues:

N/A

2. Expenditures:

N/A

**B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:**

1. Revenues:

N/A

2. Expenditures:

N/A

**C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:**

N/A

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

N/A

IV. CONSEQUENCES OF ARTICLE VII, SECTION 18 OF THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTION:

A. APPLICABILITY OF THE MANDATES PROVISION:

This bill does not require counties or municipalities to expend funds.

B. REDUCTION OF REVENUE RAISING AUTHORITY:

This bill does not reduce the authority of counties or municipalities to raise revenue.

C. REDUCTION OF STATE TAX SHARED WITH COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES:

This bill does not reduce the percentage of state tax shared with counties and municipalities.

V. COMMENTS:

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

N/A

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

N/A

C. OTHER COMMENTS:

N/A

VI. AMENDMENTS OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES:

N/A

VII. SIGNATURES:

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION INNOVATION:

Prepared by:

Staff Director:

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Alex Amengual

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