

HB 967

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CHAMBER ACTION

1 The PreK-12 Committee recommends the following:

2
3 **Council/Committee Substitute**

4 Remove the entire bill and insert:

5 A bill to be entitled

6 An act relating to public K-12 educational instruction;
7 amending s. 1003.42, F.S.; revising provisions relating to
8 required instruction and courses of study in the public
9 schools; including study of the history of the United
10 States and free enterprise; requiring standards adopted by
11 the State Board of Education to conform to requirements
12 for instruction; providing requirements for teaching the
13 history of the United States at certain grade levels;
14 amending s. 1003.43, F.S., relating to general
15 requirements for high school graduation; including study
16 of the Declaration of Independence in the credit
17 requirement for American government; amending s. 1002.20,
18 F.S.; correcting a cross-reference; providing an effective
19 date.

20
21 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
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23 Section 1. Section 1003.42, Florida Statutes, is amended
24 to read:

25 1003.42 Required instruction.--

26 (1) Each district school board shall provide all courses
27 required for high school graduation and appropriate instruction
28 designed to ensure that students meet State Board of Education
29 adopted standards in the following subject areas: reading and
30 other language arts, mathematics, science, social studies,
31 foreign languages, health and physical education, and the arts.

32 (2) All members of the instructional staff of the public
33 schools, subject to the rules of the State Board of Education
34 and the district school board, shall teach efficiently and
35 faithfully, using the books and materials required that meet the
36 highest standards for professionalism and historic accuracy,
37 following the prescribed courses of study, and employing
38 approved methods of instruction, the following:

39 (a) The history and content of the Declaration of
40 Independence as written, including national sovereignty, natural
41 law, self-evident truth, equality of all persons, limited
42 government, popular sovereignty, and God-given, inalienable
43 rights of life, liberty, and property, and how it forms the
44 philosophical foundation of our government.

45 (b) The history, meaning, significance, and effect of the
46 provisions of the Constitution of the United States and
47 amendments thereto with emphasis on each of the 10 amendments
48 that make up the Bill of Rights and how the constitution
49 provides the structure of our government.

50 (c) The history of the state and the State Constitution.

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51 ~~(d)-(b)~~ The most important arguments in support of adopting
52 our republican form of government, as they are embodied in the
53 most important of the Federalist Papers.

54 ~~(e) The essentials of the United States Constitution and~~
55 ~~how it provides the structure of our government.~~

56 ~~(e)-(d)~~ Flag education, including proper flag display and
57 flag salute.

58 ~~(f)-(e)~~ The elements of United States civil government,
59 including the primary functions of and interrelationships
60 between the Federal Government, the state, and its counties,
61 municipalities, school districts, and special districts.

62 (g) The history of the United States, including the period
63 of discovery, the early colonies, the War for Independence, the
64 Civil War, the expansion of the United States to its present
65 boundaries, the world wars, and the civil rights movement to the
66 present. The history of the United States shall be taught in a
67 factual manner based on genuine history.

68 ~~(h)-(f)~~ The history of the Holocaust (1933-1945), the
69 systematic, planned annihilation of European Jews and other
70 groups by Nazi Germany, a watershed event in the history of
71 humanity, to be taught in a manner that leads to an
72 investigation of human behavior, an understanding of the
73 ramifications of prejudice, racism, and stereotyping, and an
74 examination of what it means to be a responsible and respectful
75 person, for the purposes of encouraging tolerance of diversity
76 in a pluralistic society and for nurturing and protecting
77 democratic values and institutions.

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78 (i)~~(g)~~ The history of African Americans, including the
79 history of African peoples before the political conflicts that
80 led to the development of slavery, the passage to America, the
81 enslavement experience, abolition, and the contributions of
82 African Americans to society.

83 (j)~~(h)~~ The elementary principles of agriculture.

84 (k)~~(i)~~ The true effects of all alcoholic and intoxicating
85 liquors and beverages and narcotics upon the human body and
86 mind.

87 (l)~~(j)~~ Kindness to animals.

88 ~~(k) The history of the state.~~

89 (m)~~(l)~~ The conservation of natural resources.

90 (n)~~(m)~~ Comprehensive health education that addresses
91 concepts of community health; consumer health; environmental
92 health; family life, including an awareness of the benefits of
93 sexual abstinence as the expected standard and the consequences
94 of teenage pregnancy; ~~mental and emotional health;~~ injury
95 prevention and safety; nutrition; personal health; prevention
96 and control of disease; and substance use and abuse.

97 (o)~~(n)~~ Such additional materials, subjects, courses, or
98 fields in such grades as are prescribed by law or by rules of
99 the State Board of Education and the district school board in
100 fulfilling the requirements of law.

101 (p)~~(o)~~ The study of Hispanic contributions to the United
102 States.

103 (q)~~(p)~~ The study of women's contributions to the United
104 States.

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105 (r) The nature and importance of free enterprise to the
106 United States economy.

107 (s)~~(g)~~ A character-development program in the elementary
108 schools, similar to Character First or Character Counts, which
109 is secular in nature ~~and stresses such character qualities as~~
110 ~~attentiveness, patience, and initiative.~~ Beginning in school
111 year 2004-2005, the character-development program shall be
112 required in kindergarten through grade 12. Each district school
113 board shall develop or adopt a curriculum for the character-
114 development program that shall be submitted to the department
115 for approval. The character-development curriculum shall stress
116 the qualities of patriotism;; responsibility;; citizenship;; the
117 Golden Rule; kindness;; respect for authority, human life,
118 liberty, and personal property; honesty; charity;; self-
119 control;; racial, ethnic, and religious tolerance;; and
120 cooperation.

121 (t)~~(r)~~ In order to encourage patriotism, the sacrifices
122 that veterans have made in serving our country and protecting
123 democratic values worldwide. Such instruction must occur on or
124 before Veterans' Day and Memorial Day. Members of the
125 instructional staff are encouraged to use the assistance of
126 local veterans when practicable.

127
128 Standards adopted by the State Board of Education shall be based
129 on, and conform to, the requirements of this subsection.

130 (3) Each district school board shall require that United
131 States history, including the provisions of paragraphs (2) (a) -
132 (g), be taught in at least two grade levels in elementary

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133 | school, one grade level in middle school, and one grade level in
134 | high school.

135 | ~~(4)~~~~(3)~~ Any student whose parent makes written request to
136 | the school principal shall be exempted from the teaching of
137 | reproductive health or any disease, including HIV/AIDS, its
138 | symptoms, development, and treatment. A student so exempted may
139 | not be penalized by reason of that exemption. Course
140 | descriptions for comprehensive health education shall not
141 | interfere with the local determination of appropriate curriculum
142 | which reflects local values and concerns.

143 | Section 2. Paragraph (g) of subsection (1) of section
144 | 1003.43, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

145 | 1003.43 General requirements for high school graduation.--

146 | (1) Graduation requires successful completion of either a
147 | minimum of 24 academic credits in grades 9 through 12 or an
148 | International Baccalaureate curriculum. The 24 credits shall be
149 | distributed as follows:

150 | (g) One-half credit in American government, including
151 | study of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of
152 | the United States. For students entering the 9th grade in the
153 | 1997-1998 school year and thereafter, the study of Florida
154 | government, including study of the State Constitution, the three
155 | branches of state government, and municipal and county
156 | government, shall be included as part of the required study of
157 | American government.

158 |
159 | District school boards may award a maximum of one-half credit in
160 | social studies and one-half elective credit for student

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161 completion of nonpaid voluntary community or school service
162 work. Students choosing this option must complete a minimum of
163 75 hours of service in order to earn the one-half credit in
164 either category of instruction. Credit may not be earned for
165 service provided as a result of court action. District school
166 boards that approve the award of credit for student volunteer
167 service shall develop guidelines regarding the award of the
168 credit, and school principals are responsible for approving
169 specific volunteer activities. A course designated in the Course
170 Code Directory as grade 9 through grade 12 that is taken below
171 the 9th grade may be used to satisfy high school graduation
172 requirements or Florida Academic Scholars award requirements as
173 specified in a district school board's student progression plan.
174 A student shall be granted credit toward meeting the
175 requirements of this subsection for equivalent courses, as
176 identified pursuant to s. 1007.271(6), taken through dual
177 enrollment.

178 Section 3. Paragraph (d) of subsection (3) of section
179 1002.20, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

180 1002.20 K-12 student and parent rights.--Parents of public
181 school students must receive accurate and timely information
182 regarding their child's academic progress and must be informed
183 of ways they can help their child to succeed in school. K-12
184 students and their parents are afforded numerous statutory
185 rights including, but not limited to, the following:

186 (3) HEALTH ISSUES.--

187 (d) Reproductive health and disease education.--A public
188 school student whose parent makes written request to the school

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189 | principal shall be exempted from the teaching of reproductive
190 | health or any disease, including HIV/AIDS, in accordance with
191 | the provisions of s. 1003.42(4)~~(3)~~.

192 | Section 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.