

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: CS/HB 1147 Educational Instruction
SPONSOR(S): K-12 Subcommittee, Latvala and others
TIED BILLS: **IDEN./SIM. BILLS:** SB 1462

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) K-12 Subcommittee	10 Y, 0 N, As CS	Brink	Fudge
2) Education Appropriations Subcommittee	10 Y, 0 N	Seifert	Heflin
3) Education Committee	16 Y, 0 N	Brink	Mizereck

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

Current law requires each school district to develop or adopt a curriculum for a K-12 character-development program and submit it to the department for approval. The curriculum must “stress the qualities of patriotism; responsibility; citizenship; kindness; respect for authority, life, liberty and personal property; honesty; charity; self-control; racial, ethnic, and religious tolerance; and cooperation”.

In addition to current instructional requirements, the bill requires character-development programs in high schools to include instruction on:

- Developing leadership skills, interpersonal skills, organization skills, and research skills;
- Creating a resume;
- Developing and practicing the skills necessary for employment interviews;
- Managing stress and expectations; and
- Developing skills that enable students to become more resilient and self-motivated.

School districts currently provide a variety of character-development programs for K-12 students. The specified requirements for high school students are not expected to have any fiscal impact on school districts.

The bill does not appear to affect the state or local governments.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2016.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

Present Situation

Section 1003.42(2), F.S., establishes components of required instruction for public school students. Instructional staff must teach the following content:

- The history and content of the Declaration of Independence, to include specific consents which include in part national sovereignty, natural law, and how they form the philosophical foundation of our government.
- 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; students in grades 7 through 12 teen dating violence and abuse education;
- 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.

The law does not establish any particular grade level or courses within which instruction on these topics must be provided. However, the Department of Education takes steps to ensure that the enumerated content is taught in public schools. The law encourages the State Board of Education to "adopt standards and pursue assessment of the requirements" of subsection (2) of s. 1003.42, F.S.

Each school district must develop or adopt a curriculum for its K-12 character-development program and submit it to the department for approval.¹ The curriculum must “stress the qualities of patriotism; responsibility; citizenship; kindness; respect for authority, life, liberty and personal property; honesty; charity; self-control; racial, ethnic, and religious tolerance; and cooperation.”²

Effect of Proposed Changes

In addition to current instructional requirements, the bill requires character-development programs in high schools to include instruction on:

- Developing leadership skills, interpersonal skills, organization skills, and research skills;
- Creating a resume;
- Developing and practicing the skills necessary for employment interviews;
- Managing stress and expectations; and
- Developing skills that enable students to become more resilient and self-motivated.

As a result, all public school students will receive instruction on these life and career skills topics while in high school.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Amends s. 1003.42, F.S.; requiring character education programs to provide certain instruction to students in grades 9-12.

Section 2. Provides an effective date of July 1, 2016.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

¹ Section 1003.42(2)(s), F.S.

² *Id.*

School districts currently provide a variety of character-development programs for K-12 students. The specified requirements for high school students are not expected to have any fiscal impact on school districts.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

None.

2. Other:

None.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

On February 1, 2016, the K-12 Subcommittee adopted a proposed committee substitute and reported the bill favorably as a committee substitute. The proposed committee substitute requires character-development programs in high schools to include instruction on:

- Developing leadership skills, interpersonal skills, organization skills, and research skills;
- Creating a resume;
- Developing and practicing the skills necessary for employment interviews;
- Managing stress and expectations; and
- Developing skills that enable students to become more resilient and self-motivated.

This analysis reflects the proposed committee substitute as reported favorably by the K-12 Subcommittee.