

By Senator Cruz

18-00061-21

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to educational instruction on African-  
3       American history; amending s. 1003.42, F.S.; revising  
4       the required instruction relating to African-American  
5       history to include certain information on present-day  
6       racial injustices and hardships; requiring the  
7       Department of Education to contract with the  
8       Commissioner of Education's African American History  
9       Task Force in developing a specific framework for such  
10      instruction; requiring the task force to submit its  
11      recommendations to the commissioner and the State  
12      Board of Education by a specified date; requiring each  
13      school district to annually certify, beginning on a  
14      specified date, that it has met certain requirements;  
15      providing an effective date.

16  
17 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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19       Section 1. Paragraph (h) of subsection (2) of section  
20       1003.42, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

21       1003.42 Required instruction.—

22       (2) Members of the instructional staff of the public  
23       schools, subject to the rules of the State Board of Education  
24       and the district school board, shall teach efficiently and  
25       faithfully, using the books and materials required that meet the  
26       highest standards for professionalism and historical accuracy,  
27       following the prescribed courses of study, and employing  
28       approved methods of instruction, the following:

29       (h) The history of African Americans, including the history

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30 of African peoples before the political conflicts that led to  
31 the development of slavery, the passage to America, the  
32 enslavement experience, abolition, and the contributions of  
33 African Americans to society; and the present-day racial  
34 injustices and hardships that African Americans face, including,  
35 but not limited to, disparities within the various social  
36 structures. Instructional materials must ~~shall~~ include the  
37 contributions of African Americans to American society. The  
38 department shall contract with the Commissioner of Education's  
39 African American History Task Force in developing the specific  
40 framework for the instruction required by this paragraph. The  
41 task force shall submit its recommendations to the Commissioner  
42 of Education and the State Board of Education by March 1, 2022.  
43 Beginning January 1, 2023, and each January 1 thereafter, each  
44 school district shall certify and provide evidence to the  
45 department, in a manner prescribed by the department, that the  
46 requirements of this paragraph have been met.

47  
48 The State Board of Education is encouraged to adopt standards  
49 and pursue assessment of the requirements of this subsection. A  
50 character development program that incorporates the values of  
51 the recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor and that is  
52 offered as part of a social studies, English Language Arts, or  
53 other schoolwide character building and veteran awareness  
54 initiative meets the requirements of paragraphs (s) and (t).

55 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.