

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to required student instruction on  
3           voting; amending s. 1003.42, F.S.; requiring character  
4           development curriculum for certain grades to include  
5           instruction on voting using specified ballot;  
6           providing an effective date.

7  
8   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

9  
10           Section 1. Paragraph (s) of subsection (2) of section  
11   1003.42, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

12           1003.42 Required instruction.—

13           (2) Members of the instructional staff of the public  
14   schools, subject to the rules of the State Board of Education  
15   and the district school board, shall teach efficiently and  
16   faithfully, using the books and materials required that meet the  
17   highest standards for professionalism and historical accuracy,  
18   following the prescribed courses of study, and employing  
19   approved methods of instruction, the following:

20           (s) A character development program in the elementary  
21   schools, similar to Character First or Character Counts, which  
22   is secular in nature. Beginning in school year 2004-2005, the  
23   character development program shall be required in kindergarten  
24   through grade 12. Each district school board shall develop or  
25   adopt a curriculum for the character development program that

26 | shall be submitted to the department for approval.

27 |       1. The character development curriculum shall stress the  
28 | qualities of patriotism; responsibility; citizenship; kindness;  
29 | respect for authority, life, liberty, and personal property;  
30 | honesty; charity; self-control; racial, ethnic, and religious  
31 | tolerance; and cooperation.

32 |       2. The character development curriculum for grades 6  
33 | through 12 shall include instruction on voting using the uniform  
34 | primary and general election ballot described in s. 101.151(9).

35 |       3. The character development curriculum for grades 9  
36 | through 12 shall, at a minimum, include instruction on  
37 | developing leadership skills, interpersonal skills, organization  
38 | skills, and research skills; creating a resume; developing and  
39 | practicing the skills necessary for employment interviews;  
40 | conflict resolution, workplace ethics, and workplace law;  
41 | managing stress and expectations; and developing skills that  
42 | enable students to become more resilient and self-motivated.

43 |  
44 | The State Board of Education is encouraged to adopt standards  
45 | and pursue assessment of the requirements of this subsection. A  
46 | character development program that incorporates the values of  
47 | the recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor and that is  
48 | offered as part of a social studies, English Language Arts, or  
49 | other schoolwide character building and veteran awareness  
50 | initiative meets the requirements of paragraphs (s) and (t).

HB 469

2021

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