By Senator Jones

A bill to be entitled
An act relating to required instruction in the history
of African Americans; amending s. 1003.42, F.S.;
providing that instructional staff of public schools
are encouraged to include the history of local
African-American cemeteries in the study of the
history of African Americans when practicable;
providing an effective date.

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

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

1003.42 Required instruction.—
(2) Members of the instructional staff of the public
schools, subject to the rules of the State Board of Education
and the district school board, shall teach efficiently and
faithfully, using the books and materials required that meet the
highest standards for professionalism and historical accuracy,
following the prescribed courses of study, and employing
approved methods of instruction, the following:

(h) The history of African Americans, including the history
of African peoples before the political conflicts that led to
the development of slavery, the passage to America, the
enslavement experience, abolition, and the contributions of
African Americans to society. Instructional materials shall
include the contributions of African Americans to American
society. Members of the instructional staff are encouraged to
include the history of local African-American cemeteries in the
study of the history of African Americans when practicable.

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

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.