

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to required instruction in the history
 3 of African Americans; amending s. 1003.42, F.S.;
 4 revising required instruction in the history of
 5 African Americans to include a comprehensive account
 6 of the sociopolitical circumstances surrounding
 7 slavery, including which political parties supported
 8 slavery by adopting pro-slavery tenets as part of
 9 their platform; providing an effective date.

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

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 13 Section 1. Paragraph (h) of subsection (2) of section
 14 1003.42, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

15 1003.42 Required instruction.—

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

23 (h) The history of African Americans, including the
 24 history of African peoples before the political conflicts that
 25 led to the development of slavery;~~;~~ the passage to America;~~;~~ the

26 | enslavement experience; a comprehensive account of the
27 | sociopolitical circumstances surrounding slavery, including
28 | which political parties supported slavery by adopting pro-
29 | slavery tenets to their party platform;~~7~~ abolition;~~7~~ and the
30 | history and contributions of Americans of the African diaspora
31 | to society. Students shall develop an understanding of the
32 | ramifications of prejudice, racism, and stereotyping on
33 | individual freedoms, and examine what it means to be a
34 | responsible and respectful person, for the purpose of
35 | encouraging tolerance of diversity in a pluralistic society and
36 | for nurturing and protecting democratic values and institutions.
37 | Instruction shall include the roles and contributions of
38 | individuals from all walks of life and their endeavors to learn
39 | and thrive throughout history as artists, scientists, educators,
40 | businesspeople, influential thinkers, members of the faith
41 | community, and political and governmental leaders and the
42 | courageous steps they took to fulfill the promise of democracy
43 | and unite the nation. Instructional materials shall include the
44 | vital contributions of African Americans to build and strengthen
45 | American society and celebrate the inspirational stories of
46 | African Americans who prospered, even in the most difficult
47 | circumstances. Instructional personnel may facilitate
48 | discussions and use curricula to address, in an age-appropriate
49 | manner, how the individual freedoms of persons have been
50 | infringed by slavery, racial oppression, racial segregation, and

51 racial discrimination, as well as topics relating to the
52 enactment and enforcement of laws resulting in racial
53 oppression, racial segregation, and racial discrimination and
54 how recognition of these freedoms has overturned these unjust
55 laws. However, classroom instruction and curriculum may not be
56 used to indoctrinate or persuade students to a particular point
57 of view inconsistent with the principles enumerated in
58 subsection (3) or the state academic standards. Each school
59 district must annually certify and provide evidence to the
60 department, in a manner prescribed by the department, that the
61 requirements of this paragraph are met. The department shall
62 prepare and offer standards and curriculum for the instruction
63 required by this paragraph and may seek input from the
64 Commissioner of Education's African American History Task Force
65 or from any state or nationally recognized African-American
66 educational organizations. The department may contract with any
67 state or nationally recognized African-American educational
68 organizations to develop training for instructional personnel
69 and grade-appropriate classroom resources to support the
70 developed curriculum.

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72 The State Board of Education is encouraged to adopt standards
73 and pursue assessment of the requirements of this subsection.
74 Instructional programming that incorporates the values of the
75 recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor and that is

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76 | offered as part of a social studies, English Language Arts, or
77 | other schoolwide character building and veteran awareness
78 | initiative meets the requirements of paragraph (u).

79 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.