

CHAPTER 2019-150

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 807

An act relating to civics education; amending s. 1003.4156, F.S.; requiring that instructional materials for certain civics education courses be reviewed and approved by the Commissioner of Education in consultation with certain entities and individuals; requiring the commissioner to identify errors and inaccuracies in state-adopted materials; requiring such errors and inaccuracies to be corrected; requiring the commissioner to review and provide recommendations for certain instructional materials and test specifications by a specified date; requiring the Department of Education to review statewide civics education course standards by a specified date; deleting obsolete provisions; amending s. 1003.44, F.S.; providing that hours devoted to certain programs satisfy the service work requirement for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section 1003.4156, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.4156 General requirements for middle grades promotion.—

(1) In order for a student to be promoted to high school from a school that includes middle grades 6, 7, and 8, the student must successfully complete the following courses:

(c) Three middle grades or higher courses in social studies. ~~Beginning with students entering grade 6 in the 2012-2013 school year,~~ One of these courses must be at least a one-semester civics education course that includes the roles and responsibilities of federal, state, and local governments; the structures and functions of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government; and the meaning and significance of historic documents, such as the Articles of Confederation, the Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution of the United States. All instructional materials for the civics education course must be reviewed and approved by the Commissioner of Education, in consultation with organizations that may include, but are not limited to, the Florida Joint Center for Citizenship, the Bill of Rights Institute, Hillsdale College, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, iCivics, and the Constitutional Sources Project, and with educators, school administrators, postsecondary education representatives, elected officials, business and industry leaders, parents, and the public. Any errors and inaccuracies the commissioner identifies in state-adopted materials must be corrected pursuant to s. 1006.35. After consulting with such entities and individuals, the commissioner shall review the current state-approved civics education course instructional materials and the test specifications for the statewide, standardized EOC assessment in civics education and shall

make recommendations for improvements to the materials and test specifications by December 31, 2019. By December 31, 2020, the department shall complete a review of the statewide civics education course standards. Beginning with the 2013-2014 school year, Each student's performance on the statewide, standardized EOC assessment in civics education required under s. 1008.22 constitutes 30 percent of the student's final course grade. A middle grades student who transfers into the state's public school system from out of country, out of state, a private school, or a home education program after the beginning of the second term of grade 8 is not required to meet the civics education requirement for promotion from the middle grades if the student's transcript documents passage of three courses in social studies or two year-long courses in social studies that include coverage of civics education.

Section 2. Subsection (5) is added to section 1003.44, Florida Statutes, to read:

1003.44 Patriotic programs; rules.—

(5) The hours that a high school student devotes to the Florida Debate Initiative, also known as the Central Florida Debate Initiative, the YMCA Youth and Government program, the American Legion Boys State program, the American Legion Girls State program, or other similar programs approved by the commissioner shall count towards the service work requirement for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.

Approved by the Governor June 26, 2019.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 26, 2019.