

CHAPTER 2020-88

Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 1213

An act relating to educational instruction of historical events; directing the Commissioner of Education's African American History Task Force to determine ways in which the 1920 Ocoee Election Day Riots will be included in required instruction on African-American history; requiring the task force to submit recommendations to the commissioner and the State Board of Education by a specified date; directing the Secretary of State to take certain action regarding the inclusion of the history of the 1920 Ocoee Election Day Riots in museum exhibits; directing the Secretary of Environmental Protection to assess naming opportunities for state parks, or a portion of a facility therein, in recognizing victims of the 1920 Ocoee Election Day Riots; authorizing the secretary to appoint a committee to assist in assessing naming opportunities; requiring the secretary to submit recommendations to the Legislature under specified circumstances; encouraging district school boards to assess naming opportunities for naming school facilities in recognition of victims of the 1920 Ocoee Election Day Riots; amending s. 1003.42, F.S.; including certain instruction related to anti-Semitism in the required instruction relating to the Holocaust; providing school district and Department of Education requirements relating to such instruction; authorizing the department to seek input from certain entities for specified purposes relating to such instruction; authorizing the department to contract with specified entities to develop specified training and resources relating to such instruction; designating a certain week as "Holocaust Education Week;" providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. The Commissioner of Education's African American History Task Force is directed to examine ways in which the history of the 1920 Ocoee Election Day Riots will be included in instruction on African-American history required pursuant to s. 1003.42(2)(h), Florida Statutes. The task force shall submit its recommendations to the Commissioner of Education and the State Board of Education by March 1, 2021.

Section 2. The Secretary of State is directed to:

(1) In coordination with the Division of Cultural Affairs of the Department of State, determine how the Museum of Florida History and other state museums will promote the history of the 1920 Ocoee Election Day Riots through exhibits and educational programs.

(2) Collaborate with the National Museum of African American History and Culture of the Smithsonian Institution to seek inclusion of the history of the 1920 Ocoee Election Day Riots in the museum's exhibits.

Section 3. The Secretary of Environmental Protection is directed to determine which state park, or a portion of or a facility therein, will be named in recognition of any victim of the 1920 Ocoee Election Day Riots. The secretary may appoint a committee to assess naming opportunities. If a change to state law is required in order to change the designation of a state park, or a portion of or a facility therein, the secretary shall submit any such recommendation to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Section 4. District school boards are encouraged to assess opportunities for naming school facilities in recognition of victims of the 1920 Ocoee Election Day Riots.

Section 5. Paragraph (g) 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:

(g)1. The history of the Holocaust (1933-1945), the systematic, planned annihilation of European Jews and other groups by Nazi Germany, a watershed event in the history of humanity, to be taught in a manner that leads to an investigation of human behavior, an understanding of the ramifications of prejudice, racism, and stereotyping, and an examination of what it means to be a responsible and respectful person, for the purposes of encouraging tolerance of diversity in a pluralistic society and for nurturing and protecting democratic values and institutions, including the policy, definition, and historical and current examples of anti-Semitism, as described in s. 1000.05(7), and the prevention of anti-Semitism. Each school district must annually certify and provide evidence to the department, in a manner prescribed by the department, that the requirements of this paragraph are met. The department shall prepare and offer standards and curriculum for the instruction required by this paragraph and may seek input from the Commissioner of Education's Task Force on Holocaust Education or from any state or nationally recognized Holocaust educational organizations. The department may contract with any state or nationally recognized Holocaust educational organizations to develop training for instructional personnel and grade-appropriate classroom resources to support the developed curriculum.

2. The second week in November shall be designated as "Holocaust Education Week" in this state in recognition that November is the anniversary of Kristallnacht, widely recognized as a precipitating event that led to the Holocaust.

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 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.

Approved by the Governor June 23, 2020.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 23, 2020.