

CHAPTER 2021-158

House Bill No. 5

An act relating to civic education curriculum; amending s. 1003.4282, F.S.; revising the social studies high school graduation credit requirement; amending s. 1003.44, F.S.; requiring the Department of Education to develop or approve an integrated civic education curriculum that meets certain requirements; requiring the department to curate oral history resources to be used along with such curriculum; providing a short title; requiring the department to approve the civic education curricula submitted by school districts and charter schools; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (d) of subsection (3) of section 1003.4282, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.4282 Requirements for a standard high school diploma.—

(3) STANDARD HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA; COURSE AND ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS.—

(d) Three credits in social studies.—A student must earn one credit in United States History; one credit in World History; one-half credit in economics; and one-half credit in United States Government, which must include a comparative discussion of political ideologies, such as communism and totalitarianism, that conflict with the principles of freedom and democracy essential to the founding principles of the United States. The United States History EOC assessment constitutes 30 percent of the student's final course grade.

Section 2. Subsection (6) is added to section 1003.44, Florida Statutes, to read:

1003.44 Patriotic programs; rules.—

(6) To help families, civic institutions, local communities, district school boards, and charter schools prepare students to be civically responsible and knowledgeable adults, the Department of Education shall:

(a) Develop or approve an integrated civic education curriculum that school districts and charter schools must incorporate as part of regular school work in kindergarten through grade 12. The civic education curriculum must assist students in developing:

1. An understanding of their shared rights and responsibilities as residents of the state and of the founding principles of the United States as described in s. 1003.42(2)(a)-(c).

2. A sense of civic pride and desire to participate regularly with government at the local, state, and federal levels.

3. An understanding of the process for effectively advocating before government bodies and officials.

4. An understanding of the civic-minded expectations, developed by the State Board of Education, of an upright and desirable citizenry that recognizes and accepts responsibility for preserving and defending the blessings of liberty inherited from prior generations and secured by the United States Constitution.

(b) Curate oral history resources to be used along with the civic education curriculum which provide portraits in patriotism based on the personal stories of diverse individuals who demonstrate civic-minded qualities, including first-person accounts of victims of other nations' governing philosophies who can compare those philosophies with those of the United States. This paragraph may be cited as the "Portraits in Patriotism Act."

(c) Approve integrated civic education curricula submitted by school districts and charter schools that meet the requirements of this subsection.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.

Approved by the Governor June 22, 2021.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 22, 2021.