

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to character-development instruction;
 3 amending s. 1003.42, F.S.; requiring character
 4 education programs to provide certain instruction to
 5 students in grades 9-12; providing an effective date.

6
 7 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
 8

9 Section 1. Paragraph (s) of subsection (2) of section
 10 1003.42, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

11 1003.42 Required instruction.—

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

19 (s) A character-development program in the elementary
 20 schools, similar to Character First or Character Counts, which
 21 is secular in nature. Beginning in school year 2004-2005, the
 22 character-development program shall be required in kindergarten
 23 through grade 12. Each district school board shall develop or
 24 adopt a curriculum for the character-development program that
 25 shall be submitted to the department for approval. The
 26 character-development curriculum shall stress the qualities of

27 | patriotism; responsibility; citizenship; kindness; respect for
28 | authority, life, liberty, and personal property; honesty;
29 | charity; self-control; racial, ethnic, and religious tolerance;
30 | and cooperation. The character-development program in grades 9
31 | through 12 shall, at a minimum, include instruction on
32 | developing leadership skills, interpersonal skills, organization
33 | skills, and research skills; creating a resume; developing and
34 | practicing the skills necessary for employment interviews;
35 | managing stress and expectations; and developing skills that
36 | enable students to become more resilient and self-motivated.

37 |
38 | The State Board of Education is encouraged to adopt standards
39 | and pursue assessment of the requirements of this subsection.

40 | Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.