

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to civic literacy; creating s.
 3 683.1455, F.S.; designating the month of September as
 4 American Founders' Month"; amending s. 1000.03, F.S.;
 5 revising the priorities of Florida's K-20 education
 6 system; amending s. 1001.215, F.S.; revising the
 7 duties of the Just Read, Florida! Office to including
 8 developing and providing access to certain resources
 9 for elementary schools; amending s. 1003.44, F.S.;
 10 encouraging districts to provide certain instruction;
 11 amending s. 1007.25, F.S.; providing that
 12 postsecondary students must demonstrate competency in
 13 civic literacy; providing requirements for
 14 demonstrating competency in civic literacy; providing
 15 for the development of a new course or revision of an
 16 existing course in civic literacy; providing for the
 17 establishment of course competencies; amending ss.
 18 943.22 and 1001.64, F.S.; conforming cross-references;
 19 providing an effective date.

20
 21 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

22
 23 Section 1. Section 683.1455, Florida Statutes, is created
 24 to read:
 25 683.1455 American Founders' Month.—

26 (1) The month of September of each year is designated as
 27 "American Founders' Month."

28 (2) The Governor may annually issue a proclamation
 29 designating the month of September as "American Founders' Month"
 30 and urging all civic, fraternal, and religious organizations and
 31 public and private educational institutions to recognize and
 32 observe this occasion through appropriate programs, meetings,
 33 services, or celebrations in which state, county, and local
 34 governmental officials are invited to participate.

35 Section 2. Paragraphs (c), (d), (e), (f), and (g) of
 36 subsection (5) of section 1000.03, Florida Statutes, are
 37 redesignated as paragraphs (d), (e), (f), (g), and (h),
 38 respectively, and paragraph (c) is added to that subsection, to
 39 read:

40 1000.03 Function, mission, and goals of the Florida K-20
 41 education system.—

42 (5) The priorities of Florida's K-20 education system
 43 include:

44 (c) Civic literacy.—Students are prepared to become
 45 civically engaged and knowledgeable adults who make positive
 46 contributions to their community.

47 Section 3. Subsections (4) through (11) of section
 48 1001.215, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (5)
 49 through (12), and a new subsection (4) is added to that section,
 50 to read:

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51 1001.215 Just Read, Florida! Office.—There is created in
52 the Department of Education the Just Read, Florida! Office. The
53 office shall be fully accountable to the Commissioner of
54 Education and shall:

55 (4) Develop and provide access to sequenced, content-rich
56 curriculum programming, instructional practices, and resources
57 that help elementary schools use state-adopted instructional
58 materials to increase students' background knowledge and
59 literacy skills, including student attainment of the Next
60 Generation Sunshine State Standards for social studies, science,
61 and the arts.

62 Section 4. Subsection (3) is added to section 1003.44,
63 Florida Statutes, to read:

64 1003.44 Patriotic programs; rules.—

65 (3) All public schools in the state are encouraged to
66 coordinate, at all grade levels, instruction related to our
67 nation's founding fathers with "American Founders' Month"
68 pursuant to s. 683.1455.

69 Section 5. Subsections (4) through (11) of section
70 1007.25, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (5)
71 through (12), respectively, and a new subsection (4) is added to
72 that section, to read:

73 1007.25 General education courses; common prerequisites;
74 other degree requirements.—

75 (4) Beginning with students initially entering a Florida

76 College System institution or state university in 2018-2019 and
 77 thereafter, each student must demonstrate competency in civic
 78 literacy. Students must have the option to demonstrate
 79 competency through successful completion of a civic literacy
 80 course or by achieving a passing score on an assessment adopted
 81 in rule by the State Board of Education or in regulation by the
 82 Board of Governors, as applicable. The chair of the State Board
 83 of Education and the chair of the Board of Governors, or their
 84 respective designee, shall jointly appoint a faculty committee
 85 to:

86 (a) Develop a new course in civic literacy or revise an
 87 existing general education core course; and

88 (b) Establish course competencies and identify outcomes
 89 that include, at a minimum, an understanding of the basic
 90 principles of American democracy and how they are applied in our
 91 republican form of government, an understanding of the United
 92 States Constitution, knowledge of the founding documents and how
 93 they have shaped the nature and functions of our institutions of
 94 self-governance, and an understanding of landmark Supreme Court
 95 cases and their impact on law and society.

96 Section 6. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section
 97 943.22, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

98 943.22 Salary incentive program for full-time officers.—

99 (1) For the purpose of this section, the term:

100 (c) "Community college degree or equivalent" means

101 graduation from an accredited community college or having been
102 granted a degree pursuant to s. 1007.25(11) ~~s. 1007.25(10)~~ or
103 successful completion of 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours
104 and eligibility to receive an associate degree from an
105 accredited college, university, or community college.

106 Section 7. Subsection (7) and paragraph (d) of subsection
107 (8) of section 1001.64, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

108 1001.64 Florida College System institution boards of
109 trustees; powers and duties.—

110 (7) Each board of trustees has responsibility for:
111 ensuring that students have access to general education courses
112 as identified in rule; requiring no more than 60 semester hours
113 of degree program coursework, including 36 semester hours of
114 general education coursework, for an associate in arts degree;
115 notifying students that earned hours in excess of 60 semester
116 hours may not be accepted by state universities; notifying
117 students of unique program prerequisites; and ensuring that
118 degree program coursework beyond general education coursework is
119 consistent with degree program prerequisite requirements adopted
120 pursuant to s. 1007.25(6) ~~s. 1007.25(5)~~.

121 (8) Each board of trustees has authority for policies
122 related to students, enrollment of students, student records,
123 student activities, financial assistance, and other student
124 services.

125 (d) Boards of trustees shall identify their general

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126 | education curricula pursuant to s. 1007.25(7) ~~s. 1007.25(6)~~.
127 | Section 8. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.