

From: [Peel, Jackson](#)
To: [FLHouseDems](#)
Subject: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: HB 551 to Strengthen the Teaching of African American History in Florida
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HB 551 by Representative Benjamin Passes with Bi-partisan Support to Strengthen the Teaching of African American History in Florida

“Recognizing it is imperative that we are clear on exactly what the current requirements are for teaching African American history in Florida, we brought forward this good legislation,” said **Representative Christopher Benjamin (D-Miami Gardens)**.

Currently, Florida law requires the teaching of African American history in the K-12 system in an age appropriate manner. This includes slavery, the civil rights movement, and the contributions of African Americans throughout history.

“Simply put, Florida law not only permits but requires that our story; the good, the bad and the ugly, be introduced to all of our children,” added **Representative Benjamin**.

HB 551 provides clear guidelines on how African American history is taught in Florida.

The legislation:

1. Reiterates that African American Studies are required to be taught in the State of Florida.
2. Requires each school district in our great state to annually submit a report to the Department of Education providing proof that African American Studies is being taught, how it’s being assessed and how can it be improved upon.
3. Codifies the enforcement guidelines, set forth in F.S 1008.32, on school districts that do not adhere to this law.

African American history is a part of the fabric of American history.

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