

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to required African-American
 3 instruction; amending s. 1003.42, F.S.; requiring each
 4 school district to certify and provide certain
 5 evidence to the Department of Education regarding
 6 certain instruction; authorizing the department to
 7 seek input from and contract with certain educational
 8 organizations for specified purposes; providing an
 9 effective date.

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

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 13 Section 1. Paragraph (h) of subsection (2) of section
 14 1003.42, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

15 1003.42 Required instruction.—

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

23 (h) The history of African Americans, including the
 24 history of African peoples before the political conflicts that
 25 led to the development of slavery, the passage to America, the

26 | enslavement experience, abolition, and the history and
27 | contributions of Americans of the African diaspora to society.
28 | Students shall develop an understanding of the ramifications of
29 | prejudice, racism, and stereotyping on individual freedoms, and
30 | examine what it means to be a responsible and respectful person,
31 | for the purpose of encouraging tolerance of diversity in a
32 | pluralistic society and for nurturing and protecting democratic
33 | values and institutions. Instruction shall include the roles and
34 | contributions of individuals from all walks of life and their
35 | endeavors to learn and thrive throughout history as artists,
36 | scientists, educators, businesspeople, influential thinkers,
37 | members of the faith community, and political and governmental
38 | leaders and the courageous steps they took to fulfill the
39 | promise of democracy and unite the nation. Instructional
40 | materials shall include the vital contributions of African
41 | Americans to build and strengthen American society and celebrate
42 | the inspirational stories of African Americans who prospered,
43 | even in the most difficult circumstances. Instructional
44 | personnel may facilitate discussions and use curricula to
45 | address, in an age-appropriate manner, how the individual
46 | freedoms of persons have been infringed by slavery, racial
47 | oppression, racial segregation, and racial discrimination, as
48 | well as topics relating to the enactment and enforcement of laws
49 | resulting in racial oppression, racial segregation, and racial
50 | discrimination and how recognition of these freedoms has

51 overturned these unjust laws. However, classroom instruction and
52 curriculum may not be used to indoctrinate or persuade students
53 to a particular point of view inconsistent with the principles
54 enumerated in subsection (3) or the state academic standards.
55 Each school district must annually certify and provide evidence
56 to the department, in a manner prescribed by the department,
57 that the requirements of this paragraph are met. The department
58 shall prepare and offer standards and curriculum for the
59 instruction required by this paragraph and may seek input from
60 the Commissioner of Education's African American History Task
61 Force or from any state or nationally recognized African-
62 American educational organizations. The department may contract
63 with any state or nationally recognized African-American
64 educational organizations to develop training for instructional
65 personnel and grade-appropriate classroom resources to support
66 the developed curriculum.

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68 The State Board of Education is encouraged to adopt standards
69 and pursue assessment of the requirements of this subsection.
70 Instructional programming that incorporates the values of the
71 recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor and that is
72 offered as part of a social studies, English Language Arts, or
73 other schoolwide character building and veteran awareness
74 initiative meets the requirements of paragraph (t).

75 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.