

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  
4           annually as "American Founders' Month"; authorizing  
5           the Governor to annually issue a proclamation  
6           containing specified information; amending s. 1000.03,  
7           F.S.; revising the priorities of Florida's K-20  
8           education system to include civic literacy; amending  
9           s. 1001.215, F.S.; revising the duties of the Just  
10          Read, Florida! Office to include developing and  
11          providing access to certain resources for elementary  
12          schools; amending s. 1003.44, F.S.; encouraging public  
13          schools to coordinate certain instruction with  
14          American Founders' Month; amending s. 1007.25, F.S.;  
15          requiring postsecondary students to demonstrate  
16          competency in civic literacy and providing  
17          requirements therefor; providing for the appointment  
18          of a faculty committee; requiring the committee to  
19          develop or revise certain courses and establish  
20          specified course competencies; amending ss. 943.22 and  
21          1001.64, F.S.; conforming cross-references; providing  
22          an effective date.

23  
24   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
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26 Section 1. Section 683.1455, Florida Statutes, is created  
 27 to read:

28 683.1455 American Founders' Month.-

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

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

38 Section 2. Paragraphs (c) through (g) of subsection (5) of  
 39 section 1000.03, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as  
 40 paragraphs (d) through (h), respectively, and a new paragraph  
 41 (c) is added to that subsection to read:

42 1000.03 Function, mission, and goals of the Florida K-20  
 43 education system.-

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

46 (c) Civic literacy.-Students are prepared to become  
 47 civically engaged and knowledgeable adults who make positive  
 48 contributions to their communities.

49 Section 3. Subsections (4) through (11) of section  
 50 1001.215, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (5)

51 through (12), respectively, and a new subsection (4) is added to  
52 that section to read:

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

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

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

66 1003.44 Patriotic programs; rules.—

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

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

75 1007.25 General education courses; common prerequisites;

76 | other degree requirements.—

77 |       (4) Beginning with students initially entering a Florida  
78 | College System institution or state university in the 2018-2019  
79 | school year and thereafter, each student must demonstrate  
80 | competency in civic literacy. Students must have the option to  
81 | demonstrate competency through successful completion of a civic  
82 | literacy course or by achieving a passing score on an  
83 | assessment. The State Board of Education must adopt in rule and  
84 | the Board of Governors must adopt in regulation at least one  
85 | existing assessment that measures competencies consistent with  
86 | the required course competencies outlined in paragraph (b). The  
87 | chair of the State Board of Education and the chair of the Board  
88 | of Governors, or their respective designees, shall jointly  
89 | appoint a faculty committee to:

90 |       (a) Develop a new course in civic literacy or revise an  
91 | existing general education core course in American History or  
92 | American Government to include civic literacy.

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

101 Section 6. Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of section  
102 943.22, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

103 943.22 Salary incentive program for full-time officers.—

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

105 (c) "Community college degree or equivalent" means  
106 graduation from an accredited community college or having been  
107 granted a degree pursuant to s. 1007.25(11) ~~s. 1007.25(10)~~ or  
108 successful completion of 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours  
109 and eligibility to receive an associate degree from an  
110 accredited college, university, or community college.

111 Section 7. Subsection (7) and paragraph (d) of subsection  
112 (8) of section 1001.64, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

113 1001.64 Florida College System institution boards of  
114 trustees; powers and duties.—

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

126           (8) Each board of trustees has authority for policies  
127 related to students, enrollment of students, student records,  
128 student activities, financial assistance, and other student  
129 services.

130           (d) Boards of trustees shall identify their general  
131 education curricula pursuant to s. 1007.25(7) ~~s. 1007.25(6)~~.

132           Section 8. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.