

CHAPTER 2024-102

Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 1264

An act relating to the history of communism; amending s. 1003.42, F.S.; requiring instruction in public schools on the history of communism; providing requirements for the instruction; authorizing the department to prepare and offer standards for the instruction and to seek input from certain educational organizations; creating s. 1004.89, F.S.; creating the Institute for Freedom in the Americas at Miami Dade College; providing the purpose of the institute; requiring the institute to partner with the Adam Smith Center for Economic Freedom for specified purposes; requiring the institute to enter into an agreement with the Adam Smith Center for Economic Freedom for specified purposes; requiring Miami Dade College to approve a direct-support organization to support the institute; requiring the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Governor to appoint the board of the direct-support organization, subject to certain requirements; amending s. 1004.6496, F.S.; conforming a provision to a change made by the act; amending s. 1004.64991, F.S.; renaming the Adam Smith Center for the Study of Economic Freedom as the Adam Smith Center for Economic Freedom; revising the goals of the center; requiring the Department of State, in collaboration with the Department of Education, to consult with stakeholders to provide a recommendation to the Legislature by a specified date for the creation of a museum of the history of communism; providing for future expiration; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (v) is added to subsection (2) of section 1003.42, Florida Statutes, to read:

1003.42 Required instruction.—

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

(v)1. Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, the history of communism. Such instruction must be age appropriate and developmentally appropriate and include:

a. The history of communism in the United States and domestic communist movements, including their histories and tactics.

b. Atrocities committed in foreign countries under the guidance of communism.

c. Comparative discussion of political ideologies, such as communism and totalitarianism, which conflict with the principles of freedom and democracy essential to the founding principles of the United States.

d. The increasing threat of communism in the United States and to our allies through the 20th century, including the events of the Cultural Revolution in the People's Republic of China and other mass killings from communist regimes.

e. The economic, industrial, and political events that have preceded and anticipated communist revolutions.

f. The communist policies of Cuba and the spread of communist ideologies throughout Latin America, including the roots of the Communist Party of Cuba and guerilla forces throughout Latin America.

2. The department shall prepare and offer standards for the instruction required by this paragraph and may seek input from any individual who was a victim of communism or any state or nationally recognized organization dedicated to the victims of communism.

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

Section 2. Section 1004.89, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1004.89 Institute for Freedom in the Americas.—

(1) The Institute for Freedom in the Americas is hereby created at Miami Dade College to preserve the ideals of a free society and promote democracy in the Americas. The institute shall be located at the Freedom Tower and shall:

(a) Partner with the Adam Smith Center for Economic Freedom to hold workshops, symposiums, and conferences that provide networking opportunities for leaders throughout the region to gain new insights and ideas for promoting democracy, including knowledge of and insight into the intellectual, political, and economic freedoms that are foundational to a democratic society.

(b) Enter into an agreement with the Adam Smith Center for Economic Freedom to provide participants with academic coursework and programs that advance democratic practices and economic and legal reforms.

(c) Provide educational and experiential opportunities for regional leaders committed to careers in democracy and governance.

(2) Miami Dade College, in accordance with s. 1004.70, shall approve a direct-support organization to support the institute in its mission to develop partnerships throughout the Americas. Notwithstanding s. 1004.70(2), the board of the direct-support organization shall be composed of five members, as follows: one member appointed by the President of the Senate; one member appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and three members appointed by the Governor, including a representative from Miami Dade College and a representative from the Adam Smith Center for Economic Freedom.

Section 3. Paragraph (e) of subsection (3) of section 1004.6496, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1004.6496 Hamilton Center for Classical and Civic Education.—

(3) The goals of the center are to:

(e) Coordinate with the Florida Institute for Governance and Civics created pursuant to s. 1004.6499 and the Adam Smith Center for the Study of Economic Freedom created pursuant to s. 1004.64991 and assist in the curation and implementation of Portraits in Patriotism created pursuant to s. 1003.44.

Section 4. Section 1004.64991, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1004.64991 The Adam Smith Center for the Study of Economic Freedom.

(1) The Adam Smith Center for the Study of Economic Freedom at Florida International University is hereby created.

(2) The goals of the center are to:

(a) Study the effect of government and free market economies on individual freedom, educational freedom, and human prosperity.

(b) Conduct and promote research on the effect of political and economic systems on human prosperity.

(c) Plan and host ~~research~~ workshops, symposiums, and conferences to allow students, scholars, and guests to exchange in civil discussion of democracy and capitalism.

(d) Provide fellowship and mentoring opportunities to students engaged in scholarly studies of the effect of political and economic systems on human prosperity.

(e) Partner with the Institute for Freedom in the Americas to support its mission, which includes promoting economic and individual freedoms as a

means for advancing human progress with an emphasis on Latin American and the Caribbean.

(3) In order to carry out the purpose set forth in this section, the center ~~institute~~ is authorized to:

- (a) Hire necessary faculty and staff pursuant to s. 1001.741;
- (b) Enroll students;
- (c) Develop curriculum and offer new courses, including honors courses, certificates, degrees, and major and minor programs;
- (d) Hold events, including fundraisers;
- (e) Fulfill other actions approved by the president of the university; and
- (f) Generate resources based on student credit hour enrollment, in the same manner as any college within the institution.

Section 5. The Department of State, in collaboration with the Department of Education, shall consult with state and national stakeholders to provide a recommendation to the Legislature, no later than December 1, 2024, on the creation of a museum of the history of communism. This section expires July 1, 2025.

Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

Approved by the Governor April 17, 2024.

Filed in Office Secretary of State April 17, 2024.