

ENROLLED

CS/HB 395

2022 Legislature

1  
 2 An act relating to "Victims of Communism Day";  
 3 creating s. 683.334, F.S.; requiring the Governor to  
 4 proclaim November 7 of each year as "Victims of  
 5 Communism Day"; requiring the day to be observed in  
 6 public schools and by public exercise; requiring a day  
 7 other than November 7 to be observed by public schools  
 8 under a specified circumstance; requiring certain high  
 9 school students to receive specified instruction;  
 10 requiring the State Board of Education to adopt  
 11 certain revised social studies standards by a  
 12 specified date; providing an effective date.

13  
 14 WHEREAS, over 100 years have passed since the Bolshevik  
 15 Revolution in Russia and the formation of the first communist  
 16 government under Vladimir Lenin, leading to decades of  
 17 oppression and violence under communist regimes throughout the  
 18 world, and

19 WHEREAS, based on the economic philosophies of Karl Marx,  
 20 communism has proven incompatible with the ideals of liberty,  
 21 prosperity, and dignity of human life and has given rise to such  
 22 infamous totalitarian dictators as Joseph Stalin, Vladimir  
 23 Lenin, Mao Zedong, and Pol Pot, and

24 WHEREAS, communist regimes worldwide have killed more than  
 25 100 million people and subjected countless others to

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26 | exploitation and unspeakable atrocities, with victims  
 27 | representing many different ethnicities, creeds, and  
 28 | backgrounds, and

29 |       WHEREAS, through false promises of equality and liberation  
 30 | or through coercion, brutality, and fear, communist regimes have  
 31 | systematically robbed their own citizens of the rights of  
 32 | freedom of worship, freedom of speech, and freedom of  
 33 | association, and

34 |       WHEREAS, many victims of communism were persecuted as  
 35 | political prisoners for speaking out against these regimes, and  
 36 | others were killed in genocidal state-sponsored purges of  
 37 | undesirable groups, and

38 |       WHEREAS, in addition to violating basic human rights,  
 39 | communist regimes have suppressed intellectual freedom, cultural  
 40 | life, and self-determination movements in more than 40 nations,  
 41 | NOW, THEREFORE,

42 |  
 43 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

44 |  
 45 |       Section 1. Section 683.334, Florida Statutes, is created  
 46 | to read:

47 |       683.334 Victims of Communism Day.—

48 |       (1) The Governor shall proclaim November 7 of each year as  
 49 | "Victims of Communism Day," which shall be suitably observed in  
 50 | the public schools of the state as a day honoring the 100

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51 million people who have fallen victim to communist regimes  
52 across the world and which shall be suitably observed by public  
53 exercise in the State Capitol and elsewhere as the Governor may  
54 designate.

55 (2) If November 7 falls on a day that is not a school day,  
56 "Victims of Communism Day" shall be observed in the public  
57 schools in the state on the preceding school day or on such  
58 school day as may be designated by local school authorities.

59 (3)(a) Beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, high school  
60 students enrolled in the United States Government class required  
61 by s. 1003.4282(3)(d) must receive at least 45 minutes of  
62 instruction on "Victims of Communism Day" to include topics such  
63 as Mao Zedong and the Cultural Revolution, Joseph Stalin and the  
64 Soviet System, Fidel Castro and the Cuban Revolution, Vladimir  
65 Lenin and the Russian Revolution, Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge,  
66 and Nicolás Maduro and the Chavismo movement, and how victims  
67 suffered under these regimes through poverty, starvation,  
68 migration, systemic lethal violence, and suppression of speech.

69 (b) No later than April 1, 2023, the State Board of  
70 Education must adopt revised social studies standards for  
71 inclusion in the United States Government class required by s.  
72 1003.4282(3)(d) which incorporate the requirements of this  
73 subsection.

74 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.