

ENROLLED

CS/HB 395

2022 Legislature

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

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

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

WHEREAS, communist regimes worldwide have killed more than 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:

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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.