A bill to be entitled
An act relating to the study of the Bible and
religion; amending s. 1003.45, F.S.; requiring each
school district to offer specified courses relating to
religion, Hebrew Scriptures, and the Bible to certain
students as elective courses; requiring such courses
be included in the Course Code Directory; providing
course requirements; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 1003.45, Florida
Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.45 Permitting Study of the Bible and religion;
permitting brief meditation period.—
(1)(a) The district school board shall may install in the
public schools in the district a secular program of education
including, but not limited to:
1. An objective study of religion.
2. An objective study of the Bible, including, but not
limited to, a course on the Hebrew Scriptures and Old Testament
of the Bible; a course on the New Testament of the Bible; and a
course on the Hebrew Scriptures, the Old Testament of the Bible,
and the New Testament of the Bible. A student may not be
required to use a specific translation of the Hebrew Scriptures
or Bible as the sole text for the course.

(b) The Department of Education must include the courses
in the Course Code Directory.

(c) A course offered pursuant to this section must:
1. Be offered as an elective course for students in grades 9 through 12.
2. Follow all state and federal laws and guidelines in
maintaining religious neutrality and accommodating the diverse
religious views, traditions, and perspectives of all students in
the school. A course offered pursuant to this section may not
endorse, favor, or promote or disfavor or show hostility toward
a particular religion, religious perspective, or nonreligious
faith, an objective study of the Bible and of religion.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.