

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to disability history and awareness;
 3 creating s. 1003.4205, F.S.; requiring district school
 4 boards to designate "Disability History and Awareness
 5 Weeks" during the first 2 weeks in October each year;
 6 specifying that district school boards may provide
 7 disability history and awareness instruction in all K-12
 8 public schools during the 2-week period; providing the
 9 content and goals of such instruction; encouraging state
 10 postsecondary institutions to conduct and promote
 11 activities related to disability history and awareness;
 12 providing an effective date.

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

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 16 Section 1. Section 1003.4205, Florida Statutes, is created
 17 to read:

18 1003.4205 Disability history and awareness instruction.--

19 (1) Each district school board may provide disability
 20 history and awareness instruction in all K-12 public schools in
 21 the district during the first 2 weeks in October each year. The
 22 district school board shall designate these 2 weeks as
 23 "Disability History and Awareness Weeks."

24 (2) (a) During this 2-week period, students may be provided
 25 intensive instruction to expand their knowledge, understanding,
 26 and awareness of individuals with disabilities, the history of
 27 disability, and the disability rights movement. Disability
 28 history may include the events and timelines of the development

CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

29 and evolution of services to, and the civil rights of,
30 individuals with disabilities. Disability history may also
31 include the contributions of specific individuals with
32 disabilities, including the contributions of acknowledged
33 national leaders.

34 (b) The instruction may be integrated into the existing
35 school curriculum in ways including, but not limited to,
36 supplementing lesson plans, holding school assemblies, or
37 providing other school-related activities. The instruction may
38 be delivered by qualified school personnel or by knowledgeable
39 guest speakers, with a particular focus on including individuals
40 with disabilities.

41 (3) The goals of disability history and awareness
42 instruction include:

43 (a) Better treatment for individuals with disabilities,
44 especially for youth in school, and increased attention to
45 preventing the bullying or harassment of students with
46 disabilities.

47 (b) Encouragement to individuals with disabilities to
48 develop increased self-esteem, resulting in more individuals
49 with disabilities gaining pride in being an individual with a
50 disability, obtaining postsecondary education, entering the
51 workforce, and contributing to their communities.

52 (c) Reaffirmation of the local, state, and federal
53 commitment to the full inclusion in society of, and the equal
54 opportunity for, all individuals with disabilities.

55 Section 2. State postsecondary institutions are encouraged
56 to conduct and promote activities on their campuses that provide

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57 | education, understanding, and awareness of individuals with
58 | disabilities, disability history, and the disability rights
59 | movement.

60 | Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.