

By the Committees on Education Pre-K - 12; and Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; and Senators Ring, Norman, Braynon, Garcia, and Sobel

581-04587-11

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1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to disability awareness; amending s.
3 1003.4205, F.S.; requiring district school boards to
4 provide disability history and awareness instruction
5 in all K-12 public schools during the first week in
6 October; providing for individual presenters who have
7 disabilities or teachers who specialize in exceptional
8 student education and who are currently employed at
9 the school to provide the disability history and
10 awareness instruction; providing an effective date.

11
12 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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14 Section 1. Section 1003.4205, Florida Statutes, is amended
15 to read:

16 1003.4205 Disability history and awareness instruction.—

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

22 (2) (a) During this 1-week ~~2-week~~ period, students shall ~~may~~
23 be provided intensive instruction to expand their knowledge,
24 understanding, and awareness of individuals with disabilities,
25 the history of disability, and the disability rights movement.
26 Disability history must ~~may~~ include the events and timelines of
27 the development and evolution of services to, and the civil
28 rights of, individuals with disabilities. Disability history
29 must ~~may~~ also include the contributions of specific individuals

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30 with disabilities, including the contributions of acknowledged
31 national leaders.

32 (b) Beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, the
33 instruction shall ~~may~~ be integrated into the existing school
34 curriculum in ways including, but not limited to, supplementing
35 lesson plans, holding school assemblies, or providing other
36 school-related activities. The instruction may be delivered by
37 individual presenters who have disabilities or teachers who are
38 currently employed at the school and who specialize in
39 exceptional student education ~~qualified school personnel or by~~
40 ~~knowledgeable guest speakers, with a particular focus on~~
41 ~~including individuals with disabilities.~~

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

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

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

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

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