

By Senator Collins

14-00597B-25

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to disability history and awareness
3 instruction; providing a short title; amending s.
4 1003.4205, F.S.; requiring, rather than authorizing,
5 disability history and awareness instruction;
6 requiring that disability history and awareness
7 instruction include specified material; authorizing a
8 district school board to consult with the Evin B.
9 Hartsell Foundation to further develop material;
10 providing an effective date.

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

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14 Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Evin B. Hartsell
15 Act."

16 Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section
17 1003.4205, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

18 1003.4205 Disability history and awareness instruction.—
19 (2)(a) During this 2-week period, students must ~~may~~ be
20 provided intensive instruction to expand their knowledge,
21 understanding, and awareness of individuals with disabilities,
22 the history of disability, and the disability rights movement.
23 Disability history may include the events and timelines of the
24 development and evolution of services to, and the civil rights
25 of, individuals with disabilities. Disability history may also
26 include the contributions of specific individuals with
27 disabilities, including the contributions of acknowledged
28 national leaders.

29 1. Instruction must include the following material:

14-00597B-25

2025540__

30 a. For grades K-3:

31 (I) Conversations on bullying. Such conversations may
32 address what students should do if they are being bullied, what
33 they should do if they see someone being bullied, why bullying
34 is not the victim's fault, what different types of bullying look
35 like, the possibility that a friend could be a bully, or the
36 school's antibullying policy.

37 (II) Activities to teach about physical disabilities. Such
38 activities may include having students take turns using a
39 wheelchair, having students try to complete tasks using only one
40 hand, or having students try to complete tasks with a blindfold
41 while other students act as guides.

42 b. For grades 4-6:

43 (I) Information about autism spectrum disorder.

44 (II) Activities that demonstrate what life with an autism
45 spectrum disorder is like. Such activities may include requiring
46 students to attempt to communicate with one another without
47 speaking.

48 c. For grades 7-9:

49 (I) Information about hearing impairments.

50 (II) Activities that demonstrate what life with hearing
51 impairment is like. Such activities may include requiring
52 students to wear ear plugs and attempt to listen as the teacher
53 reads aloud while noise plays in the background or requiring
54 students to attempt to read one another's lips.

55 d. For grades 10-12:

56 (I) Information on different types of learning and
57 intellectual disabilities.

58 (II) Activities that demonstrate what life with a learning

14-00597B-25

2025540__

59 or intellectual disability is like. Such activities may include
60 requiring students to read sentences written backwards.

61 2. A district school board may consult with the Evin B.
62 Hartsell Foundation to further develop the curricula in
63 subparagraph 1.

64 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.