

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 556

96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE GRISAMORE.

0617L.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 162, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to disability history and awareness month in public schools.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 162, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 162.946, to read as follows:

- 2 **162.946. 1. Each district school board shall require schools within the district to**
3 **provide disability history and awareness instruction in all K-12 public schools during the**
4 **month of October of each year. The month of October shall be designated "Disability**
5 **History and Awareness Month".**
- 6 **2. During disability history and awareness month, students shall be provided**
7 **intensive instruction to expand their knowledge, understanding, and awareness of**
8 **individuals with disabilities, the history of disability, and the disability rights movement.**
9 **Disability history shall include the events and timelines of the development and evolution**
10 **of services to, and the civil rights of, individuals with disabilities. Disability history shall**
11 **also include the contributions of specific individuals with disabilities, including the**
12 **contributions of acknowledged national leaders. The instruction shall be integrated into**
13 **the existing school curriculum in ways including, but not limited to, supplementing lesson**
14 **plans, holding school assemblies, or providing other school-related activities. The**
15 **instruction may be delivered by qualified school personnel or by knowledgeable guest**
16 **speakers, with a particular focus on including individuals with disabilities.**
- 3. The goals of the disability history and awareness instruction include:**

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

17 **(1) An understanding that disability is a natural part of the human experience; we**
18 **are all more alike than different; and regardless of disability, every citizen is afforded the**
19 **same rights and responsibilities as that of any other;**

20 **(2) The creation of a more inclusive school community, where students with**
21 **disabilities are included in every aspect of society, and every student is acknowledged for**
22 **their unique gifts, talents, and contributions; and**

23 **(3) Reaffirmation of the local, state, and federal commitment to the full inclusion**
24 **in society of, and the equal opportunity for, all individuals with disabilities.**

25 **4. Institutions of higher education within the state are encouraged to conduct and**
26 **promote activities on individual campuses that provide education, understanding, and**
27 **awareness of individuals with disabilities.**

T