

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 556
96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

0617L.03C

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
2 known as section 162.946, to read as follows:

**162.946. 1. Each district school board shall require schools within the district to
2 provide disability history and awareness instruction in all K-12 public schools during the
3 month of October of each year. The month of October shall be designated "Disability
4 History and Awareness Month".**

**5 2. During disability history and awareness month, students shall be provided
6 instruction to expand their knowledge, understanding, and awareness of individuals with
7 disabilities, the history of disability, and the disability rights movement.**

**8 3. Disability history shall include the events and timelines of the development and
9 evolution of services to, and the civil rights of, individuals with disabilities. Disability
10 history shall also include the contributions of specific individuals with disabilities,
11 including the contributions of acknowledged national leaders. The instruction shall be
12 integrated into the existing school curriculum in ways including, but not limited to,
13 supplementing lesson plans, inviting classroom and assembly speakers with experience or
14 expertise on disabilities, or providing other school-related activities. The instruction may
15 be delivered by qualified school personnel or by knowledgeable guest speakers.**

16 4. The goals of the disability history and awareness instruction include:

**17 (1) Instilling in students sensitivity for fellow students with disabilities and
18 encouraging educational cultures that nurture safe and inclusive environments for students**

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.

19 **with disabilities in which bullying is discouraged and respect and appreciation for students**
20 **with disabilities is encouraged;**

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

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

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

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30 **The department of elementary and secondary education shall identify and adopt**
31 **preliminary guidelines for each district school board to use to develop its curriculum that**
32 **incorporates these goals for the disability history and awareness instruction. In respect of**
33 **local control, school districts are encouraged to exercise innovation that accomplishes the**
34 **above-stated goals.**

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

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