

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

[PERFECTED]

HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

# HOUSE BILL NO. 556

96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

0617L.03P

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

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## AN ACT

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

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*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:

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

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

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

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