SYNOPSIS

Requires DOE to maintain list of textbook vendors that use inclusive material and school districts to use textbooks from those vendors.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.
AN ACT concerning textbooks used in public schools and 
supplementing chapter 34 of Title 18A of the New Jersey 
Statutes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State 
of New Jersey:

1. a. As used in this section:
   “Inclusive material” means content in a textbook that reflects 
diversity in various categories including gender, race, ethnicity, and 
sexual orientation.
   “Textbook” means books, workbooks, or manuals, whether 
bound or in looseleaf form, or electronic textbooks, intended as the 
principal source of study material for a given class.
   b. The Department of Education shall develop and maintain a 
list of textbook vendors that incorporate inclusive material in their 
textbooks. The list shall be distributed to school districts and shall 
be made publicly available on the department’s website. Following 
the effective date of this act, when a school district determines to 
acquire a new textbook, the district shall select the textbook from a 
vendor that is included on the department’s list.
   c. Notwithstanding subsection b. of this section, a school 
district may propose to the Commissioner of Education a textbook 
vendor that is not currently on the list maintained by the 
department, and may acquire and use textbooks from that vendor 
upon the approval of the commissioner.
   d. The provisions of this section shall not apply to textbooks 
acquired by a school district using the Statewide textbook bank 
created pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2002, c.98 (C.18A:34-3).

2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh 
month next following the date of enactment.

STATEMENT

This bill requires the Department of Education to develop and 
maintain a list of textbook vendors that incorporate inclusive 
material in their textbooks and to distribute the list to school 
districts and make the list publicly available on the department’s 
website. “Inclusive material” as defined in the bill means content in 
a textbook that reflects diversity in various categories including 
gender, race, ethnicity, and sexual orientation. Under the bill, when 
a school district determines to acquire a new textbook, the district 
will be required to select the textbook from a vendor that is 
included on the department’s list. Notwithstanding, the bill allows 
a school district to propose to the Commissioner of Education a 
textbook vendor that is not currently on the department’s list and to
acquire and use textbooks from that vendor upon the approval of the
commissioner. The requirements of the bill would not apply to
textbooks acquired by a school district using the Statewide textbook
bank created pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2002, c.98 (C.18A:34-3).