ASSEMBLY, No. 4454

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JULY 27, 2020

Sponsored by:
Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY
District 7 (Burlington)
Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON
District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)
Assemblyman ANTHONY S. VERRELLI
District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)
Senator RICHARD J. CODEY
District 27 (Essex and Morris)
Senator BOB SMITH
District 17 (Middlesex and Somerset)
Senator M. TERESA RUIZ
District 29 (Essex)

Co-Sponsored by:
Assemblywomen Vainieri Huttle, McKnight, Jasey, Lampitt,
Assemblyman Wimberly, Assemblywomen Lopez, Timberlake, Carter,
Swain, Assemblyman Tully, Senators Singleton, Gopal, Assemblyman
Johnson, Assemblywomen Quijano and Jimenez

SYNOPSIS
Requires school districts to include instruction on diversity and inclusion as part of implementation of New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT
As reported by the Senate Education Committee on December 7, 2020, with amendments.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/11/2021)
AN ACT concerning diversity and inclusion instruction in school districts and supplementing chapter 35 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. Beginning in the 2021-2022 school year, each school district shall incorporate instruction on diversity and inclusion into the curriculum of students in grades kindergarten through 12 as part of the district’s implementation of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Comprehensive Health and Physical Education.

   b. The instruction shall:

      (1) highlight and promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging on topics including gender and sexual orientation, race and ethnicity, disabilities, and religious tolerance; and

      (2) examine the impact that unconscious bias and economic disparities have at both an individual level and on society as a whole; and

      (3) encourage safe, welcoming, and inclusive environments for all students regardless of race or ethnicity, sexual and gender identities, mental and physical disabilities, and religious beliefs.

   c. The Commissioner of Education shall provide school districts with sample learning activities and resources designed to promote diversity and inclusion.

2. This act shall take effect immediately.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

Assembly AED committee amendments adopted October 22, 2020.

Senate SED committee amendments adopted December 7, 2020.