

ASSEMBLY, No. 4545

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED AUGUST 13, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman HERB CONAWAY, JR.

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Vainieri Huttle

SYNOPSIS

Requires school districts to include instruction on certain events involving racial discrimination and social justice as part of implementation of New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Social Studies for middle school students.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/19/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning public school instruction on certain events in
2 United States history and supplementing chapter 35 of Title 18A
3 of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

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8 1. a. A board of education shall include instruction on certain
9 events in United States history, which involve racial discrimination
10 and social justice, in an appropriate place in the curriculum of
11 middle school students as part of the school district's
12 implementation of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in
13 Social Studies. The instruction shall include information on the
14 following events:

15 (1) the death of Emmett Till in 1955, the circumstances
16 surrounding his death, and the events following his death, including
17 the role his death played as an important catalyst for the Civil
18 Rights Movement;

19 (2) the Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s and the 1960s;

20 (3) civil unrest stemming from racial discrimination that
21 occurred during the 1990s including, but not limited to, the death of
22 Rodney King and the ensuing riots that occurred in Los Angeles,
23 California; and

24 (4) the death of George Floyd in 2020, the circumstances
25 surrounding his death, and the events following his death, including
26 the international protests against excessive police force that were
27 triggered as a result of his death.

28 b. The Commissioner of Education shall provide school districts
29 with age-appropriate sample learning activities and resources
30 designed to enhance students' overall understanding of the events
31 enumerated in subsection a. of this section.

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33 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to
34 the first full school year following the date of enactment.

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STATEMENT

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39 This bill would require school districts to provide to middle
40 school students instruction on certain events that occurred
41 throughout United States history, which involve issues around racial
42 discrimination and social justice. Specifically, the bill would
43 require instruction on: the death of Emmett Till in 1955; the Civil
44 Rights Movement in the 1950s and the 1960s; civil unrest stemming
45 from racial discrimination that occurred during the 1990s including,
46 but not limited to, the death of Rodney King and the ensuing riots
47 that occurred in Los Angeles, California; and the death of George
48 Floyd in 2020. Under the bill, the Commissioner of Education will

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- 1 provide school districts with age-appropriate sample learning
- 2 activities and resources designed to enhance students' overall
- 3 understanding of these events.