

**SENATE, No. 1512**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**219th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator M. TERESA RUIZ**

**District 29 (Essex)**

**Senator SANDRA B. CUNNINGHAM**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators Turner and Gopal**

**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.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/16/2020)**

1 AN ACT concerning textbooks used in public schools and  
2 supplementing chapter 34 of Title 18A of the New Jersey  
3 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. As used in this section:

9 “Inclusive material” means content in a textbook that accurately  
10 portrays the diversity of our society, in such areas as gender, race,  
11 ethnicity, disability, gender identity or expression, and sexual  
12 orientation.

13 “Textbook” means books, workbooks, or manuals, whether  
14 bound or in looseleaf form, or electronic textbooks, intended as the  
15 principal source of study material for a given class.

16 b. The Department of Education shall develop and maintain a  
17 list of textbook vendors that incorporate inclusive material in their  
18 textbooks. The list shall be distributed to school districts and shall  
19 be made publicly available on the department’s website. Following  
20 the effective date of this act, when a school district determines to  
21 acquire a new textbook, the district shall select the textbook from a  
22 vendor that is included on the department’s list.

23 c. Notwithstanding subsection b. of this section, a school  
24 district may propose to the Commissioner of Education a textbook  
25 vendor that is not currently on the list maintained by the  
26 department, and may acquire and use textbooks from that vendor  
27 upon the approval of the commissioner.

28 d. The provisions of this section shall not apply to textbooks  
29 acquired by a school district using the Statewide textbook bank  
30 created pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2002, c.98 (C.18A:34-3) or to  
31 textbooks that require replacement due to damage or loss.

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

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#### STATEMENT

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39 This bill requires the Department of Education to develop and  
40 maintain a list of textbook vendors that incorporate inclusive  
41 material in their textbooks and to distribute the list to school  
42 districts and make the list publicly available on the department’s  
43 website. “Inclusive material” as defined in the bill means content in  
44 a textbook that accurately portrays the diversity of our society, in  
45 such areas as gender, race, ethnicity, disability, gender identity or  
46 expression, and sexual orientation. Under the bill, when a school  
47 district determines to acquire a new textbook, the district will be  
48 required to select the textbook from a vendor that is included on the

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1 department's list. Notwithstanding, the bill allows a school district  
2 to propose to the Commissioner of Education a textbook vendor that  
3 is not currently on the department's list and to acquire and use  
4 textbooks from that vendor upon the approval of the commissioner.  
5 The requirements of the bill would not apply to textbooks acquired  
6 by a school district using the Statewide textbook bank created  
7 pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2002, c.98 (C.18A:34-3) or to  
8 textbooks that require replacement due to damage or loss.