

SENATE, No. 1512

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Senator SANDRA B. CUNNINGHAM

District 31 (Hudson)

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: 2/13/2020)

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

S1512 RUIZ, CUNNINGHAM

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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.