
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1359 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY DINNIMAN, STREET, FONTANA, COSTA AND MUTH,
OCTOBER 16, 2020

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, OCTOBER 16, 2020

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the
5 laws relating thereto," in terms and courses of study,
6 providing for Black history education.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known
10 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding a
11 section to read:

12 Section 1555. Black History Education.--(a) The department
13 shall have the following duties:

14 (1) Within three (3) months of the effective date of this
15 section, develop and disseminate material and other related
16 resources for school entities to integrate the history of the
17 Black experience in an appropriate required or elective course
18 of study curriculum. The instruction shall be age appropriate
19 and sequential.

20 (2) Update and disseminate the material and other related

1 resources under paragraph (1) as needed.

2 (3) Affix a link to the material and other related resources
3 under paragraph (1), or any update thereof, on the department's
4 equity and inclusion publicly accessible Internet website or, if
5 reabeled or discontinued, any similar type of publicly
6 accessible Internet website maintained by the department.

7 (4) Develop guidelines for school entities that design a
8 program or course of study dedicated to the instruction of the
9 history of the Black experience to submit a link to the
10 department to the program or course of study material and a
11 designated contact person for an interested person to obtain
12 additional information or assistance with designing a similar
13 program or course of study. The department shall affix the
14 submitted information on the department's equity and inclusion
15 publicly accessible Internet website or, if relabeled or
16 discontinued, any similar type of publicly accessible Internet
17 website maintained by the department.

18 (b) School entities may utilize the material and other
19 related resources developed by the department or any appropriate
20 public or private materials, personnel and other resources in
21 integrating the instruction into its curriculum under subsection
22 (a).

23 (c) As used in this section, the following words and phrases
24 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless
25 the context clearly indicates otherwise:

26 "Department." The Department of Education of the
27 Commonwealth.

28 "School entity." A school district, intermediate unit, area
29 career and technical school, charter school, cyber charter
30 school, regional charter school or private or nonpublic school.

1 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.