INTRODUCED BY HOHENSTEIN, MURT, ROEBUCK, ISAACSON, DEASY, DONATUCCI, GREEN, HANBIDGE, HILL-EVANS, KINSEY, KORTZ, LEE, McNEILL, NEILSON, SANCHEZ, SCHLOSSBERG, SCHWEYER, WEBSTER AND YOUNGBLOOD, AUGUST 13, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, AUGUST 13, 2020

AN ACT

Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An act relating to the public school system, including certain provisions applicable as well to private and parochial schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the laws relating thereto," providing for disability inclusiveness curriculum.

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

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

ARTICLE XVII-D
Disability Inclusiveness Curriculum

Section 1701-D. Short title of article.
This article shall be known and may be cited as the Disability Inclusiveness Curriculum Act.

Section 1702-D. Definitions.
The following words and phrases when used in this article shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
context clearly indicates otherwise:

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

"Nonpublic school." A nonprofit school, other than a school entity, wherein a resident of this Commonwealth may legally fulfill the compulsory school attendance requirements of this act and which meets the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Public Law 88-352, 78 Stat. 241).

"Pilot program." The Disability Inclusiveness Curriculum Pilot Program established under this article.

"Professional educator." As defined in section 1205.2(o).

"School entity." A school district, joint school district, charter school, regional charter school, cyber charter school, intermediate area or area career and technical school.

Section 1703-D. Pilot program.

(a) Establishment.--The department shall establish a Disability Inclusiveness Curriculum Pilot Program to provide instruction on the political, economic and social contributions of individuals with disabilities to students.

(b) Operation.--The pilot program shall operate for three full school years, beginning with the school year that begins at least nine months after the effective date of this section.

(c) Selection of school entities.--The department shall select at least eight school entities to participate in the pilot program. To be eligible for the pilot program, the school entity must submit a proposal to the department no more than six months after the effective date of this section that identifies how the school entity will meet the guidelines of the pilot program established by the department.

Section 1704-D. Department responsibilities.
(a) Funding.--The department shall apply for Federal, private and other non-State funds and shall use funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the department for the pilot program.

(b) Consultation.--The department shall consult with the Disability Equality in Education organization in establishing, operating and evaluating the pilot program.

(c) Guidelines.--No later than three months after the effective date of this section, the department shall establish guidelines and procedures for the pilot program using a curriculum provided by the Disability Equality in Education organization.

Section 1705-D. Pilot program evaluation.

(a) Annual report.--Each participating school entity shall annually report to the department data and information about the operation of the pilot program, in the manner prescribed by the department.

(b) Evaluation.--The department shall contract with a nationally recognized educational evaluation institution or organization to provide an evaluation of the pilot program to review the effectiveness of the implementation of a curriculum inclusive to individuals with a disability. The evaluation shall be published on the department's publicly accessible Internet website.

Section 1706-D. Statewide curriculum.

(a) General rule.--Beginning with the first school year that starts more than 12 months after the final year of the pilot program, each school entity shall provide instruction on the political, economic and social contributions of individuals with disabilities to students. The instruction shall be integrated
within the social studies and language arts courses of study required in accordance with State Board of Education regulations. Instruction may also be integrated into other appropriate courses of study.

(b) Requirements.--The instruction under subsection (a) shall:

(1) Be age appropriate.

(2) Be sequential in method of study.

(3) Communicate the premise that no human being is less than another because of a physical or mental disability.

(c) Development of curriculum.--The following shall apply:

(1) The department shall establish curriculum guidelines no later six months after final year of the pilot program. The guidelines shall be based on the curriculum implemented in the pilot program and the evaluation of the pilot program's effectiveness.

(2) The department shall work in consultation with organizations and individuals that advocate for individuals with disabilities or otherwise provide educational expertise and resources related to disability rights and the contributions of individuals with disabilities to do the following:

(i) Develop curriculum guidelines which state the minimum amount of instruction necessary to adequately educate students on the political, economic and social contributions of individuals with disabilities. The guidelines shall take into account the evaluation of the pilot program.

(ii) Develop a model curriculum, which may include materials already publicly available, and make the
curriculum available to all school entities and, upon request, to nonpublic schools. The curriculum shall be based on the curriculum established for the pilot program.

(iii) Develop and make available, to all school entities, in-service training programs and educational materials based upon the instruction provided for under subsection (a) and the curriculum guidelines established under this subsection, which may include publicly available materials.

(d) Training for professional educators.--Each school entity shall provide four hours of training in disability inclusiveness every five years for professional educators assigned to teach courses into which disability inclusiveness education has been incorporated under subsection (a). Training under this subsection may be used to satisfy a professional educator's continuing professional education requirement under section 1205.2. A school entity may use the materials made available by the department under subsection (c)(2) to conduct the training.

Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.