

2017D06204AJB:JMT

No. \_\_\_\_\_

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

AN ACT

Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in terms and courses of study, further providing for subjects of instruction and flag code and providing for mental health, physical disabilities and developmental disabilities education.

INTRODUCED \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_ District NO. \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_ District NO. \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_ District NO. \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_ District NO. \_\_\_\_\_

See next page for additional co-sponsors.

Prior Session \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Referred to Committee on</b>	
Date _____	20 _____
Reported _____	20 _____
<b>As Committed-Amended</b>	
<b>Recommendation</b>	
_____	
By Hon. _____	



## 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 further providing for subjects of instruction and flag code  
7 and providing for mental health, physical disabilities and  
8 developmental disabilities education.

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

11 Section 1. Section 1511 of the act of March 10, 1949  
12 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is  
13 amended to read:

14 Section 1511. Subjects of Instruction; Flag Code.--In every  
15 elementary public and private school, established and maintained  
16 in this Commonwealth, the following subjects shall be taught, in  
17 the English language and from English texts: English, including  
18 spelling, reading and writing, arithmetic, geography, the  
19 history of the United States and of Pennsylvania, civics,  
20 including loyalty to the State and National Government, safety

1 education, and the humane treatment of birds and animals,  
2 health, including physical education, [and] physiology[,] and  
3 information regarding mental health, physical disabilities and  
4 developmental disabilities, and music and art. Other subjects  
5 shall be taught in the public elementary schools and also in the  
6 public high schools as may be prescribed by the standards of the  
7 State Board of Education. All such subjects, except foreign  
8 languages, shall be taught in the English language and from  
9 English texts: Provided, however, That, at the discretion of the  
10 Superintendent of Public Instruction, the teaching of subjects  
11 in a language other than English may be permitted as part of a  
12 sequence in foreign language study or as part of a bilingual  
13 education program if the teaching personnel are properly  
14 certified in the subject fields. Each school district shall  
15 provide and distribute to each pupil, enrolled in the eighth  
16 grade of the public schools, one illustrated copy of the  
17 National Flag Code, and shall, from time to time, make available  
18 such copies as are necessary for replacements from year to year.  
19 It shall be the duty of each teacher in the public schools to  
20 make such use of the code as may, from time to time, seem  
21 proper.

22 Section 2. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

23 Section 1555. Mental Health, Physical Disabilities and  
24 Developmental Disabilities Education.--(a) The Department of  
25 Education, in consultation the State Board of Education, shall:

26 (1) Develop, within twelve (12) months of the effective date  
27 of this section, model curriculum for instruction in mental  
28 health, physical disabilities and developmental disabilities.  
29 The department shall, at a minimum, consult with the following  
30 individuals in developing the model curriculum:

- 1 (i) a parent of a child with a disability;  
2 (ii) a parent of a child with a mental health diagnosis;  
3 (iii) a mental health advocacy organization or mental health  
4 provider organization;  
5 (iv) a disability advocacy organization or disability  
6 provider organization;  
7 (v) a school psychologist or psychological organization; and  
8 (vi) a public school teacher and a private school teacher,  
9 or their employe organizations.

10 (2) Integrate the model curriculum developed under paragraph  
11 (1) into the health curriculum framework for school entities.

12 (3) Ensure that the model curriculum developed under  
13 paragraph (1) shall:

- 14 (i) be age appropriate;  
15 (ii) be designed in a manner that supports inclusion in all  
16 aspects of public life; and  
17 (iii) combat the stigma historically associated with a  
18 mental health, physical disability or developmental disability  
19 diagnosis.

20 (4) Publish the model curriculum developed under paragraph  
21 (1) on the department's publicly accessible Internet website.

22 (b) A school entity may utilize appropriate resources in  
23 implementing the model curriculum developed under subsection (a)  
24 (1).

25 (c) The department shall make available to each school  
26 entity a list of resources and materials to assist school  
27 entities in implementing the model curriculum developed under  
28 subsection (a)(1).

29 (d) As used in this section, the term "school entity" shall  
30 mean a school district, charter school, regional charter school,

1 cyber charter school, intermediate unit or area vocational-  
2 technical school.

3 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.