

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1415 Session of 2021

INTRODUCED BY SIMS, DALEY, SCHLOSSBERG, HILL-EVANS, HOHENSTEIN, ISAACSON, SANCHEZ, BURGOS, MADDEN, FIEDLER, ROZZI, LEE, SCHWEYER, KENYATTA, INNAMORATO, O'MARA AND BRIGGS, MAY 14, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MAY 14, 2021

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 LGBTQ+ history instruction.

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. LGBTQ+ History Instruction.--(a) Beginning  
 13 with the school year 2022-2023, each school entity shall offer  
 14 instruction on LGBTQ+ history and the social, political and  
 15 economic contributions of members of the LGBTQ+ community. This  
 16 instruction shall be integrated within the social studies and  
 17 language arts course of studies required in accordance with  
 18 State Board of Education regulations. Instruction may also be  
 19 integrated into other appropriate courses of study.

1 (b) The instruction under subsection (a) shall:

2 (1) Be age appropriate.

3 (2) Be sequential in method of study.

4 (3) Communicate the principles of social equality and the  
5 history of the struggle against discrimination and for LGBTQ+  
6 rights.

7 (c) School entities may utilize appropriate public or  
8 private resources to develop and implement the program of  
9 instruction under this section. The department shall distribute  
10 information about appropriate curriculum materials to each  
11 school entity. School entities may utilize any curriculum that  
12 complies with the requirements of this section.

13 (d) The department shall work in consultation with  
14 organizations and individuals that advocate for the equality and  
15 rights of LGBTQ+ people to develop curriculum guidelines within  
16 twelve (12) months after the effective date of this section. The  
17 guidelines shall state the minimum amount of instruction  
18 necessary to adequately educate students on LGBTQ+ history and  
19 the social, political and economic contributions of LGBTQ+  
20 people.

21 (e) Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, the department  
22 shall make available, to all school entities, in-service  
23 training programs based on the instruction provided for by this  
24 section for all instructors whose teaching responsibilities  
25 include courses of study in which instruction concerning LGBTQ+  
26 history and the social, political and economic contributions of  
27 LGBTQ+ people is integrated. School entities may utilize  
28 department programs or alternative training programs approved by  
29 the department.

30 (f) The department shall provide guidelines, training and

1 other materials necessary for the program of instruction under  
2 this section to nonpublic schools within the Commonwealth upon  
3 the request of a nonpublic school.

4 (g) The department shall promulgate regulations necessary  
5 for the implementation of this section.

6 (h) As used in this section, the following words and phrases  
7 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless  
8 the context clearly indicates otherwise:

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

11 "School entity." A school district, charter school, regional  
12 charter school, cyber charter school, intermediate unit or area  
13 career and technical school.

14 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.