

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 473 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY BRIGGS, HILL-EVANS, KINSEY, MADDEN, ISAACSON, KINKEAD, SANCHEZ, CIRESI, BIZZARRO, SHUSTERMAN, GUENST, WEBSTER AND N. NELSON, MARCH 16, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MARCH 16, 2023

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 media literacy 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. Media Literacy Education.--(a) The Department  
 13 of Education, in consultation with the State Board of Education,  
 14 shall:

15 (1) Develop, within six (6) months of the effective date of  
 16 this section, an age-appropriate model curriculum for students  
 17 in kindergarten through grade twelve for media literacy  
 18 instruction. Beginning with the school year that commences after  
 19 the effective date of this section, a school district shall

1 incorporate into the school curriculum a component regarding  
2 media literacy.

3 (2) The curriculum may include, but need not be limited to:

4 (i) developing critical thinking skills;

5 (ii) understanding how media messages shape culture and  
6 society;

7 (iii) identifying target-marketing strategies;

8 (iv) naming techniques of persuasion used;

9 (v) recognizing bias and misinformation;

10 (vi) discovering parts of a story that are not being told;

11 and

12 (vii) evaluating media messages based on personal  
13 experiences, skills, beliefs and values.

14 (3) The State Board of Education shall make this curriculum  
15 available on its publicly accessible Internet website.

16 (4) The Department of Education shall make available to  
17 school districts on the Department of Education's publicly  
18 accessible Internet website a list of resources and materials on  
19 media literacy and shall ensure that approved media literacy  
20 training opportunities are made available for use in  
21 professional development programs for teachers.

22 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.