

ASSEMBLY SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
**SENATE, No. 588**

with committee amendments

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: OCTOBER 17, 2022

The Assembly Science, Innovation and Technology Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments the Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 588 (1R).

As amended and reported, this bill directs the State Board of Education to adopt New Jersey Student Learning Standards in information literacy. As defined in the bill, the term “information literacy” means a set of skills that enables an individual to recognize when information is needed and to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information. Information literacy includes, but is not limited to, digital, visual, media, textual, and technological literacy.

Under the bill, the content of information literacy will include, at a minimum:

- (1) the research process and how information is created and produced;
- (2) critical thinking and using information resources;
- (3) research methods, including the difference between primary and secondary sources;
- (4) the difference between facts, points of view, and opinions;
- (5) accessing peer-reviewed print and digital library resources;
- (6) the economic, legal, and social issues surrounding the use of information; and
- (7) the ethical production of information.

Also under the bill, the Department of Education will convene a committee comprised of educators, the majority of which will include certified school library media specialists, as well as teaching staff members across a broad spectrum of subject areas, to develop New Jersey Student Learning Standards in information literacy. The committee will engage experts to review the standards it develops. Each school district is required to incorporate instruction on information literacy in an appropriate place in the curriculum of students in grades kindergarten through 12 as part of the district’s implementation of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. The

bill also requires that, prior to adopting New Jersey Student Learning Standards concerning information literacy, the State board will conduct at least one public hearing in the northern part of the State, at least one public hearing in the central part of the State, and at least one public hearing in the southern part of the State for the purpose of permitting the public to comment on the rigor, clarity, and reasonableness of the standards developed by the committee.

As amended and reported by the committee, this bill is identical to the Assembly Committee Substitute for Assembly Bill No. 4169, which was also amended and reported by the committee on this date.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to require each school district to incorporate instruction on information literacy in an appropriate place in the curriculum of students in grades kindergarten through 12 as part of the district's implementation of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards and to include school library media specialists in the development of the curriculum whenever possible. The amendments also replace the State Board of Education with the Department of Education as the administrative entity responsible for convening the committee of educators to develop the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in information literacy. The amendments also make additional technical changes concerning grammar and capitalization.