

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 2978

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
218th LEGISLATURE

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Sponsored by:

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SYNOPSIS

Requires DOE to maintain list of textbook vendors that use inclusive material and school districts to use textbooks from those vendors.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Education Committee on October 18, 2018, with amendments.



1 AN ACT concerning textbooks used in public schools and
2 supplementing chapter 34 of Title 18A of the New Jersey
3 Statutes.

4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:

7

8 1. a. As used in this section:

9 “Inclusive material” means content in a textbook that ¹**[reflects**
10 **diversity in various categories including]** accurately portrays the
11 diversity of our society, in such areas as¹ gender, race, ethnicity,
12 ¹disability, gender identity or expression,¹ and sexual orientation.

13 “Textbook” means books, workbooks, or manuals, whether
14 bound or in looseleaf form, or electronic textbooks, intended as the
15 principal source of study material for a given class.

16 b. The Department of Education shall develop and maintain a
17 list of textbook vendors that incorporate inclusive material in their
18 textbooks. The list shall be distributed to school districts and shall
19 be made publicly available on the department’s website. Following
20 the effective date of this act, when a school district determines to
21 acquire a new textbook, the district shall select the textbook from a
22 vendor that is included on the department’s list.

23 c. Notwithstanding subsection b. of this section, a school
24 district may propose to the Commissioner of Education a textbook
25 vendor that is not currently on the list maintained by the
26 department, and may acquire and use textbooks from that vendor
27 upon the approval of the commissioner.

28 d. The provisions of this section shall not apply to textbooks
29 acquired by a school district using the Statewide textbook bank
30 created pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2002, c.98 (C.18A:34-3) ¹or to
31 textbooks that require replacement due to damage or loss¹.

32

33 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the ¹**[seventh]**
34 nineteenth¹ month next following the date of enactment.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SED committee amendments adopted October 18, 2018.