

ASSEMBLY, No. 5233

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 11, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblyman HERB CONAWAY, JR.

District 7 (Burlington)

SYNOPSIS

Requires school districts to include instruction on public health as part of implementation of New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/11/2021)

1 **AN ACT** concerning public health instruction in school districts and
 2 supplementing chapter 35 of Title 18A of the New Jersey
 3 Statutes.

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

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 8 1. a. A board of education shall include age-appropriate
 9 instruction on public health in an appropriate place in the
 10 curriculum of middle school and high school students as part of the
 11 district's implementation of the New Jersey Student Learning
 12 Standards. The instruction shall include, but need not be limited to
 13 information on:

- 14 (1) the social determinants of health;
 15 (2) the evolution of public health over the course of American
 16 history, including exploration of such public health atrocities as the
 17 Tuskegee Syphilis Study;
 18 (3) health disparities and health inequities;
 19 (4) the development and effectiveness of different classes of
 20 medicine; and
 21 (5) the history and effectiveness of vaccines.

22 b. The Department of Education, in consultation with the
 23 Department of Health, public health experts, and advocacy
 24 organizations representing various areas of public health shall
 25 develop a model curriculum for the implementation of the
 26 instructional requirement.

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 28 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to
 29 the 2021-2022 school year.

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STATEMENT

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34 Under this bill, a board of education will include age-appropriate
 35 instruction on public health in an appropriate place in the
 36 curriculum of middle school and high school students as part of the
 37 district's implementation of the New Jersey Student Learning
 38 Standards. The instruction will include, at a minimum, information
 39 on: (1) the social determinants of health; (2) the evolution of public
 40 health over the course of American history, including exploration of
 41 such public health atrocities as the Tuskegee Syphilis Study; (3)
 42 health disparities and health inequities; (4) the development and
 43 effectiveness of different classes of medicine; and (5) the history
 44 and effectiveness of vaccines.

45 The bill requires the Department of Education, in consultation
 46 with the Department of Health, public health experts, and advocacy
 47 organizations representing various areas of public health to develop
 48 a model curriculum that will be used for the implementation of the
 49 instructional requirement.