

**SENATE, No. 2709**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**219th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED JULY 22, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator JOSEPH P. CRYAN**

**District 20 (Union)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires school districts to include instruction on certain events involving racial discrimination and social justice as part of implementation of New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Social Studies for middle school students.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



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(1) the death of Emmett Till in 1955, the circumstances surrounding his death, and the events following his death, including the role his death played as an important catalyst for the Civil Rights Movement;

(3) civil unrest stemming from racial discrimination that occurred during the 1990s including, but not limited to, the death of Rodney King and the ensuing riots that occurred in Los Angeles, California; and

b. The Commissioner of Education shall provide school districts with age-appropriate sample learning activities and resources designed to enhance students' overall understanding of the events enumerated in subsection a. of this section.

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39 This bill would require school districts to provide to middle  
40 school students instruction on certain events that occurred  
41 throughout United States history, which involve issues around racial  
42 discrimination and social justice. Specifically, the bill would  
43 require instruction on: the death of Emmett Till in 1955; the Civil  
44 Rights Movement in the 1950s and the 1960s; civil unrest stemming  
45 from racial discrimination that occurred during the 1990s including,  
46 but not limited to, the death of Rodney King and the ensuing riots  
47 that occurred in Los Angeles, California; and the death of George  
48 Floyd in 2020. Under the bill, the Commissioner of Education will

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- 1 provide school districts with age-appropriate sample learning
- 2 activities and resources designed to enhance students' overall
- 3 understanding of these events.