

CHAPTER 2025-49

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 447

An act relating to disability history and awareness instruction; providing a short title; amending s. 1003.4205, F.S.; requiring that disability history and awareness instruction include specified material; authorizing the Department of Education to consult with a specified entity to further develop certain material; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. This act may be cited as the “Evin B. Hartsell Act.”

Section 2. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 1003.4205, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1003.4205 Disability history and awareness instruction.—

(2)(a) During this 2-week period, students may be provided intensive instruction to expand their knowledge, understanding, and awareness of individuals with disabilities, the history of disability, and the disability rights movement. Disability history may include the events and timelines of the development and evolution of services to, and the civil rights of, individuals with disabilities. Disability history may also include the contributions of specific individuals with disabilities, including the contributions of acknowledged national leaders. The instruction must include the following material:

1. For kindergarten through grade 3:

a. Conversations on bullying. Such conversations may address what students should do if they are being bullied; what they should do if they see someone being bullied; why bullying is not the victim’s fault; what different types of bullying look like; the possibility that a friend could be a bully; or the school’s antibullying policy.

b. Activities to teach about physical disabilities.

2. For grades 4 through 6, information about autism spectrum disorder.

3. For grades 7 through 9, information about hearing impairments.

4. For grades 10 through 12, information on different types of learning and intellectual disabilities.

The Department of Education may consult with the Evin B. Hartsell Foundation to further develop the material required under subparagraphs 1.-4.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

Approved by the Governor May 20, 2025.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 20, 2025.