SENATE, No. 2335

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 25, 2024

Sponsored by: Senator BRIAN P. STACK District 33 (Hudson)

Senator ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Requires school districts to provide instruction on history and contributions of Latino and Hispanic Americans as part of implementation of New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/5/2024)

S2335 STACK, MCKNIGHT

AN ACT concerning instruction on Latino and Hispanic Americans in public schools and supplementing chapter 35 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

- 1. a. A board of education shall include instruction on the history and contributions of Latino and Hispanic Americans in an appropriate place in the curriculum of students in grades kindergarten through 12 as part of the school district's implementation of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Social Studies and English Language Arts.
- b. The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the Commission on Latino and Hispanic Heritage established pursuant to section 2 of P.L.2019, c.321 (C.18A:4-48), shall provide school districts with sample learning activities and resources that may be used to support implementation of the instructional requirement.

2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to the first full school year following the date of enactment.

STATEMENT

This bill requires a board of education to include instruction on the history and contributions of Latino and Hispanic Americans in an appropriate place in the curriculum of students in grades kindergarten through 12 as part of the school district's implementation of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Social Studies and English Language Arts. The bill also requires the Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the Commission on Latino and Hispanic Heritage, to provide school districts with sample learning activities and resources that may be used to support implementation of the instructional requirement.

Current law requires the Commission on Latino and Hispanic Heritage, in consultation with the Department of Education, to develop curriculum guidelines for the teaching of subjects and topics concerning and relating to the culture, history, and heritage of people of Latino and Hispanic descent. School boards are to incorporate these guidelines into the curriculum to the extent possible. This bill specifically requires instruction on the history and contributions of Latino and Hispanic Americans in the curriculum as part of the implementation of the learning standards.