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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 496 Session of  
2023

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INTRODUCED BY MUTH, HUGHES, HAYWOOD, FONTANA, KEARNEY,  
CAPPELLETTI, STREET AND DILLON, MARCH 14, 2023

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REFERRED TO EDUCATION, MARCH 14, 2023

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AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An  
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain  
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial  
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the  
5 laws relating thereto," in terms and courses of study,  
6 providing for media literacy education.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known  
10 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding a  
11 section to read:

12 Section 1555. Media Literacy Education.--(a) The Department  
13 of Education, in consultation with the State Board of Education,  
14 shall develop, within twelve (12) months of the effective date  
15 of this section, an age-appropriate model curriculum for  
16 students in kindergarten through grade twelve for media literacy  
17 instruction. Beginning with the school year that commences after  
18 the effective date of this section, a school district shall  
19 incorporate into the school curriculum a component regarding  
20 media literacy.

1 (b) The curriculum may include, but need not be limited to:

2 (1) developing critical thinking skills;

3 (2) understanding how media messages shape culture and  
4 society;

5 (3) identifying target-marketing strategies;

6 (4) naming techniques of persuasion used;

7 (5) recognizing bias and misinformation;

8 (6) discovering parts of a story that are not being told;

9 and

10 (7) evaluating media messages based on personal experiences,  
11 skills, beliefs and values.

12 (c) The Department of Education shall make the curriculum, a  
13 list of resources and other available material on media literacy  
14 available on its publicly accessible Internet website.

15 (d) The Department of Education shall ensure that approved  
16 media literacy training opportunities are made available for use  
17 in professional development programs for teachers.

18 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.