

HB 556 -- Disability History and Awareness Month in Public Schools

Sponsor: Grisamore

This bill designates October as "Disability History and Awareness Month" in all public schools and requires each school board to annually provide instruction on the topic during the month that expands students' knowledge, understanding, and awareness of individuals with disabilities, the history of disability, and the disability rights movement. The instruction must be integrated into the existing school curriculum and may be delivered by qualified school personnel or knowledgeable guest speakers. The goals of the instruction are to include:

- (1) An understanding that there are individuals with disabilities and they have the same rights and responsibilities as any other person;
- (2) A school community that includes students with disabilities and acknowledges their unique gifts, talents, and contributions; and
- (3) A society that has reaffirmed a local, state, and federal commitment to the full inclusion in society of and the equal opportunity for all individuals with disabilities.

Higher education institutions are encouraged to conduct and promote activities on their campuses that provide education, understanding, and awareness of individuals with disabilities.