



SPONSOR: Rep. Schwartzkopf & Sen. S. McBride
Sens. Gay, Hansen, Lockman, Lopez, Mantzavinos,
Paradee, Pinkney, Poore, Sokola, Sturgeon, Walsh

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
151st GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 90

ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO IDENTIFY AGE-APPROPRIATE LESSONS FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES 7-12 RELATING TO LGBTQ+ HISTORY.

1 WHEREAS, learning the history and contributions of different cultures, communities and events helps people
2 develop a deeper understanding and appreciation for the struggles and challenges some groups have faced, as well as their
3 triumphs and accomplishments; and

4 WHEREAS, issues and historic incidents involving the LGBTQ+ community have often been overlooked in
5 educational programming; and

6 WHEREAS, the history of the LGBTQ+ community is woven into the fabric of American and world history,
7 including many well-known periods and events; and

8 WHEREAS, the LGBTQ+ community has a long, deep and rich history that is unknown to many residents; and

9 WHEREAS, During the Nazi regime's rise to power, persecution of homosexuals rose exponentially, leading to
10 100,000 men arrested between 1933-1945 and several thousand imprisoned in concentration camps during the Holocaust;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, the "Lavender Scare" was a mid-20th century anti-homosexual paranoia campaign during which the
13 United States government viewed homosexual employees as security risks, with Congressional inquiries and President
14 Dwight D. Eisenhower signing a 1953 executive order that explicitly added sexuality to the criteria used to determine
15 suitability for federal employment, leading to thousands of gay and lesbian federal employees being fired; and

16 WHEREAS, the 1969 Stonewall Riots, sparked by a police raid at Stonewall Inn, a gay club located in Greenwich
17 Village in New York City, served as the catalyst for the gay rights movement in the United States; and

18 WHEREAS, misconceptions, bigotry, violence and hatred have continued to plague the LGBTQ+ community,
19 including the anti-gay paranoia surrounding the AIDS epidemic, the 2016 Pulse Nightclub massacre, and continuing
20 legislative actions in states to limit exposure to the LGBTQ topic, which is projected to have negative impact on student's
21 mental health; and

22 WHEREAS, results from the 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey conducted by the Center for Disease Control has
23 found LGBTQ+ young people are more likely to experience violence, victimization, and suicide than their peers; and

24 WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ people have made countless contributions to the betterment of our society, but the fact that
25 they were part of the LGBTQ+ community is often overlooked when being taught, leading to less understanding of the
26 breadth and depth of their role in our society; and

27 WHEREAS, Delaware has strived to be an open, friendly and inclusive state to residents of all walks of life,
28 providing protections for LGBTQ+ people and being one of the first states to pass marriage equality in 2013; and
29 WHEREAS, Delaware's educational programming attempts to provide a well-rounded and inclusive curricula to students at
30 all levels of their schooling; and

31 WHEREAS, incorporating these and other lessons into existing curricula would enrich the educational experience
32 for children, and Delaware students would gain a better understanding of their classmates, neighbors, friends and family
33 members through these lessons; and

34 WHEREAS, incorporating these and other lessons into existing curricula would provide students with additional
35 perspectives and experiences in history without placing an undue burden on educators.

36 NOW, THEREFORE:

37 BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the 151st General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the
38 Senate concurring therein, request that the Department of Education identify these and other short historic lessons that
39 educators can incorporate into existing curricula for students in grades 7-12.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these lessons should be age-appropriate for students and can be simple points
41 of information that increase the visibility of the LGBTQ+ community's contributions and struggles throughout history.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education should consult with outside groups, including
43 but not limited to, Human Rights Campaign, GLAAD, the Trevor Project, GLSEN, and the American Civil Liberties
44 Union, for applicable information and lessons to provide to educators.

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education should identify these lessons and have them
46 available for schools to utilize for the 2024-25 school year, that the materials should be posted on the Department's
47 website, and that the Department should notify all public school districts and charter schools of the availability of the
48 materials and where they are located.

49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that local educators are encouraged to incorporate these short lessons into their
50 existing curricula to provide a broader, more inclusive education to students.

51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives send suitable copies of this
52 resolution to the Department of Education, local school districts, and charter schools so that they may be apprised of the
53 sense of the House of Representatives and Senate in this matter.

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is encouraged to survey school districts and
55 charter schools after the 2024-25 school year to determine which schools utilized these materials and to gather information
56 about its implementation and whether any changes to the materials and presentation are warranted and report their findings
57 to the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate.

SYNOPSIS

This concurrent resolution encourages the Department of Education, in consultation with key stakeholders, to identify age-appropriate lessons for students in grades 7-12 related to LGBTQ+ history by the start of 2024-25 school year. It also encourages the Department of Education to survey school districts and charter schools regarding the utilization of related materials and short lessons by the end of the 2024-25 school year.