

# HOUSE BILL 281

P1, F5

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CF 9lr1995

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By: **Delegates Ross, Barnes, Benson, Carr, Costa, Davis, Donoghue, Elliott, Gilchrist, Gutierrez, Hubbard, Ivey, Kach, Kullen, Levi, Montgomery, Ramirez, Reznik, Rice, Riley, V. Turner, and Waldstreicher**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2009

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations and Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Disability History and Awareness Month – Educational Requirements**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor to proclaim the month of October to be  
4 Disability History and Awareness Month; encouraging a county board of  
5 education to provide certain instruction in a certain manner; encouraging the  
6 president of a constituent institution of the University System of Maryland to  
7 conduct and promote certain activities; prohibiting a certain interpretation of  
8 this Act; and generally relating to disability history and awareness.

9 BY adding to  
10 Article – Education  
11 Section 7–430 and 12–109(h)  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2008 Replacement Volume)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
15 Article – Education  
16 Section 12–101(a) and (b)(1) through (5)  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (2008 Replacement Volume)

19 BY adding to  
20 Article – State Government  
21 Section 13–503  
22 Annotated Code of Maryland  
23 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

24 Preamble

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 was enacted to  
2 promote inclusion, full participation, economic self-sufficiency, and equality of  
3 opportunity for all people with disabilities; and

4 WHEREAS, In 2000, the United States Census Bureau listed 845,345 people  
5 with disabilities out of a total population of 5,296,486 in the State; and

6 WHEREAS, Most families are likely to become affected by someone with a  
7 disability; and

8 WHEREAS, The U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and  
9 Rehabilitative Services reported that, during the fall of 2006, the State served 106,739  
10 students with disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Act; and

11 WHEREAS, Students with disabilities encounter social challenges in academic  
12 and community-based activities; and

13 WHEREAS, Increasing public awareness of the history of disabilities and the  
14 disability rights movement will help to include more fully people with disabilities into  
15 society; and

16 WHEREAS, Congress has designated October as National Disability  
17 Employment Awareness Month; and

18 WHEREAS, Designating October as Disability History and Awareness Month  
19 will increase public awareness and respect for people with disabilities in Maryland  
20 and beyond; now, therefore,

21 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
22 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

23 **Article – Education**

24 **7-430.**

25 **(A) IN CONJUNCTION WITH DISABILITY HISTORY AND AWARENESS**  
26 **MONTH PROCLAIMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 13-503 OF THE STATE**  
27 **GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, A COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION IS ENCOURAGED TO**  
28 **PROVIDE INSTRUCTION ON THE HISTORY OF DISABILITIES, PEOPLE WITH**  
29 **DISABILITIES, AND THE DISABILITY RIGHTS MOVEMENT.**

30 **(B) A COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION IS ENCOURAGED TO**  
31 **INCORPORATE THE INSTRUCTION UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION**  
32 **INTO STANDARD CURRICULUM THROUGH MEASURES THAT MAY INCLUDE:**

33 **(1) SUPPLEMENTING EXISTING LESSON PLANS;**

**(2) HOLDING SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES;**

**(3) HOSTING DISABILITY-FOCUSED FILM FESTIVALS;**

(4) INCORPORATING ASSISTANCE FROM INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES OR KNOWLEDGEABLE GUEST SPEAKERS FROM THE DISABILITY COMMUNITY; AND

**(5) ORGANIZING OTHER APPROPRIATE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES.**

12-101.

(a) In order to foster the development of a consolidated system of public higher education, to improve the quality of education, to extend its benefits and to encourage the economical use of the State's resources, the University System of Maryland is established in accordance with the provisions of this title.

(b) (1) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) “Board” or “Board of Regents” means the Board of Regents of the University System of Maryland.

(3) “Chancellor” means the Chief Executive Officer of the University System of Maryland and the Chief of Staff for the Board of Regents.

(4) “President” means the Chief Executive Officer of a constituent institution of the University System of Maryland.

(5) “Constituent institutions”, “institutions”, or “campuses” means the following public senior higher education institutions under the jurisdiction of the Board of Regents:

(i) University of Maryland, Baltimore;

(ii) University of Maryland Baltimore County;

(iii) University of Maryland, College Park;

(iv) University of Maryland Eastern Shore;

(v) University of Maryland University College;

(vi) Bowie State University;

(vii) Coppin State University;

(viii) Frostburg State University;

(ix) Salisbury University;

(x) Towson University; and

(xi) University of Baltimore.

12–109.

**(H) THE PRESIDENT OF EACH CONSTITUENT INSTITUTION IS ENCOURAGED TO CONDUCT AND PROMOTE ACTIVITIES AT THE INSTITUTION THAT PROVIDE EDUCATION, AWARENESS, AND UNDERSTANDING OF DISABILITY HISTORY, PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, AND THE DISABILITY RIGHTS MOVEMENT.**

#### **Article – State Government**

**13–503.**

**IN RECOGNITION OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES AND THEIR ROLE IN THE STATE’S PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE, THE GOVERNOR SHALL PROCLAIM THE MONTH OF OCTOBER EACH YEAR AS DISABILITY HISTORY AND AWARENESS MONTH.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act may not be interpreted to require any additional State or local funding for the public schools in the State or the constituent institutions of the University System of Maryland.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2009.