

HOUSE AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_  
TO  
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Offered By

AMEND House Amendment No. \_\_\_\_ to Senate Substitute for Senate Bill No. 199, Page 2, Line 7,  
by inserting after all of said line the following:

"161.355. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Media Literacy and  
Critical Thinking Act".

2. As used in this section, "media literacy" means the following:

(1) An individual's ability to access, analyze, evaluate, and participate with all forms of  
media, such as:

(a) News in print; and

(b) Social media content, such as images, text, video, and other media content;

(2) An individual's ability to recognize bias and stereotypes in media messages;

(3) The foundational skills of digital citizenship and internet safety; and

(4) In the classroom, media literacy includes integrating the process of critical analysis of  
media messages into the daily classroom curricula.

3. The department of elementary and secondary education shall establish the "Media  
Literacy and Critical Thinking" pilot program. Such pilot program shall be implemented and  
administered during the 2024-25 and 2025-26 school years.

4. Under the media literacy and critical thinking pilot program, the department of  
elementary and secondary education shall select five to seven diverse school districts to participate  
in the pilot program and from which to study data related to the outcomes of the pilot program in  
such school districts.

5. A pilot program site shall:

(1) Address each component of media literacy;

(2) Develop successful strategies for student learning within the daily classroom curricula in  
all grades or for a selected preschool to grade twelve level;

(3) Identify high-quality resources for such pilot program; and

(4) Demonstrate and report how such site addresses the following in the classroom:

Action Taken \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

1       (a) News content literacy, which is the ability to access, analyze, evaluate, and distinguish  
2 verified information from opinion and propaganda and the opportunity to practice verification;

3       (b) Visual literacy, which is the ability to find, interpret, and evaluate images and visual  
4 media such as photographs, videos, illustrations, drawings, maps, diagrams, and advertisements;

5       (c) Digital fluency, which is the ability to understand and follow the norms of safe and  
6 responsible technology use and how media influences attitudes and behaviors; and

7       (d) Digital literacy, which is the ability to be technically fluent and able to make informed  
8 decisions about content encountered online, recognize how networked technology affects behavior  
9 and perception, and create and effectively communicate with digital media tools.

10       6. The guidelines developed as a result of the study of the information gained from the pilot  
11 program shall provide students with the following information:

12       (1) The purpose and acceptable use of various social media platforms;

13       (2) Social media behavior that ensures cyber safety, cybersecurity, and cyber ethics;

14       (3) The potential negative consequences of failing to use various social media platforms  
15 responsibly, such as cyberbullying;

16       (4) The ability to access, analyze, evaluate, create, and act on all forms of digital and written  
17 communications;

18       (5) Digital ethics, etiquette, respectful discourse with individuals who have differing  
19 opinions, safety, security, digital footprints, and the identification of rhetoric that incites violence;

20       (6) Cyberbullying prevention and response;

21       (7) The significance of algorithms;

22       (8) Ways to identify online misinformation;

23       (9) A general knowledge of the economic structure of the digital landscape; and

24       (10) The importance of the right to freedom of speech contained in the Bill of Rights of the  
25 Constitution of the United States including, but not limited to:

26       (a) The central role that the right to freedom of speech has in the history of the United  
27 States; and

28       (b) The applicability of protections for freedom of speech for online interaction in school  
29 settings that the department of elementary and secondary education shall provide to school districts.

30       7. The guidelines developed as a result of the study of the information gained from the pilot  
31 program shall provide school districts with samples of learning activities, resources, and training  
32 that promote critical thinking and the skills necessary to evaluate all forms of media.

33       8. Before August 1, 2026, each pilot program site shall submit a report to the department of  
34 elementary and secondary education describing the implementation of and the information gained  
35 from the pilot program.

36       9. Before January 1, 2027, the department of elementary and secondary education shall  
37 compile the reports submitted from the pilot program sites and submit a summary report to the  
38 general assembly containing at least the following information:

- 1           (1) Qualitative and quantitative insights on how the pilot program sites addressed media  
2 literacy;  
3           (2) A compendium of high-quality strategies and resources used by educators;  
4           (3) Any professional development used or required;  
5           (4) Recommendations about which facilities, instructional materials, and technologies are  
6 needed to implement a media literacy and critical thinking program statewide;  
7           (5) Exploration of additional policy, administrative mechanisms, and legislative  
8 recommendations for implementing best practices and standards statewide; and  
9           (6) A draft of proposed clear, inclusive media literacy and critical thinking state standards  
10 for preschool to grade twelve, compiled by drawing from key media literacy skills and competencies  
11 in existing state standards and from the pilot program results.  
12           10. Standards developed under this section shall be included for consideration by the  
13 department of elementary and secondary education during the state standards review immediately  
14 following the termination of the pilot program.  
15           11. The media literacy and critical thinking pilot program shall terminate on June 30, 2026.  
16           12. This section shall expire on December 31, 2026."; and

17  
18 Further amend said bill by amending the title, enacting clause, and intersectional references  
19 accordingly.  
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21 THIS AMENDS AMENDMENT 0841S04.15H