

House \_\_\_\_\_ Amendment NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Offered By \_\_\_\_\_

1 AMEND House Committee Substitute for Senate Substitute No. 2 for Senate Committee Substitute  
2 for Senate Bill Nos. 4, 42 & 89, Page 6, Section 160.771, Line 23, by inserting after all of the said  
3 section and line the following:  
4

5 "161.355. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Media Literacy and  
6 Critical Thinking Act".

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

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

10 (a) News in print; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 5. A pilot program site shall:

24 (1) Address each component of media literacy;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

18           **(6) Cyberbullying prevention and response;**

19           **(7) The significance of algorithms;**

20           **(8) Ways to identify online misinformation;**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

37           **(1) Qualitative and quantitative insights on how the pilot program sites addressed media**  
38 **literacy;**

39           **(2) A compendium of high-quality strategies and resources used by educators;**

1           (3) Any professional development used or required;

2           (4) Recommendations about which facilities, instructional materials, and technologies are  
3 needed to implement a media literacy and critical thinking program statewide;

4           (5) Exploration of additional policy, administrative mechanisms, and legislative  
5 recommendations for implementing best practices and standards statewide; and

6           (6) A draft of proposed clear, inclusive media literacy and critical thinking state standards  
7 for preschool to grade twelve, compiled by drawing from key media literacy skills and competencies  
8 in existing state standards and from the pilot program results.

9           10. Standards developed under this section shall be included for consideration by the  
10 department of elementary and secondary education during the state standards review immediately  
11 following the termination of the pilot program.

12           11. The media literacy and critical thinking pilot program shall terminate on June 30, 2026.

13           12. This section shall expire on December 31, 2026."; and  
14

15 Further amend said bill by amending the title, enacting clause, and intersectional references  
16 accordingly.