



AMENDMENT NO. A1

(to be filled in by
Principal Clerk)

S227-ARQ-13 [v.6]

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Amends Title [YES]	Date	,2025
First Edition		

Senator Grafstein

moves to amend the bill on page 1, lines 2-6, by rewriting the lines to read:

"AN ACT TO DEMONSTRATE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S INTENT THAT STUDENTS, TEACHERS, ADMINISTRATORS, AND OTHER SCHOOL EMPLOYEES OF PUBLIC SCHOOL UNITS AND NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS THAT ACCEPT OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS RECOGNIZE THE EQUALITY AND RIGHTS OF ALL PERSONS; TO PROHIBIT PUBLIC SCHOOL UNITS AND NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS THAT ACCEPT OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS FROM PROMOTING CERTAIN CONCEPTS THAT ARE CONTRARY TO THAT INTENT; AND TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES FOR OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS AND THE PERSONAL EDUCATION STUDENT ACCOUNTS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES PROGRAM.";

And on page 3, lines 4-6, by rewriting the lines to read:

"(5) Maintain an office, division, or other unit promoting discriminatory practices or divisive concepts.";

And on page 3, lines 32-33, by inserting the following between those lines:

"**SECTION 2.2.** G.S. 115C-562.2(b5) read as rewritten:

"(b5) In addition to the amount of the scholarship grant, for any student receiving a scholarship grant in grades three, eight, or 11, three through 12, the Authority shall provide to the nonpublic school an amount equal to the cost of the nationally standardized test required to be administered as provided in G.S. 115C-562.5.

SECTION 2.3. G.S. 115C-562.5 reads as rewritten:

"§ 115C-562.5. Obligations of nonpublic schools accepting eligible students receiving scholarship grants.

(a) A nonpublic school that accepts eligible students receiving scholarship grants shall comply with the following:



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1	(1)	Provide to the Authority documentation for required tuition and fees charged
2 3	(2)	to the student by the nonpublic school.
	(2)	Provide to the Authority a criminal background check conducted for the staff
4		member with the highest decision-making authority, as defined by the bylaws,
5		articles of incorporation, or other governing document. Information provided
6		to the Authority in accordance with this subdivision is privileged information
7	(2)	and is not a public record but is for the exclusive use of the Authority.
8	(3)	Provide to the parent or guardian of an eligible student, whose tuition and fees
9		are paid in whole or in part with a scholarship grant, an annual written
10		explanation of the student's progress, including the student's scores on
11	(4)	standardized achievement tests.
12	(4)	Administer, at least once in each school year, tests as provided in this
13		subdivision. Administer each school year all tests required by the State Board
14		of Education pursuant to G.S. 115C-174.11(c) for students in grades three and
15		higher in a local school administrative unit. Test performance data for students
16		shall be submitted to the Authority by July 15 of each year. The nonpublic
17		school shall retain this data for five years, and the Authority may audit the
18		nonpublic school to ensure compliance with the retention requirement. Test
19		performance data reported to the Authority or collected by the Authority under
20		this subdivision is not a public record under Chapter 132 of the General
21		Statutes. Statutes, to the extent the data contains personally identifiable
22		information. Tests shall be administered to all eligible students enrolled in
23		grades three and higher whose tuition and fees are paid in whole or in part
24		with a scholarship grant as follows:
25		a. The nationally standardized test designated by the Authority in grades
26		three and eight.
27		b. The ACT in grade 11.
28		c. A nationally standardized test or other nationally standardized
29		equivalent measurement selected by the chief administrative officer of
30		the nonpublic school in all other grades four and higher. For grades
31		four through seven, the nationally standardized test or other equivalent
32		measurement selected must measure achievement in the areas of
33		English grammar, reading, spelling, and mathematics. For grades nine,
34		10, and 12, the nationally standardized test or other equivalent
35		measurement selected must measure either (i) achievement in the areas
36		of English grammar, reading, spelling, and mathematics or (ii)
37		competencies in the verbal and quantitative areas. Nothing in this
38		subdivision shall prohibit a nonpublic school from administering
39		additional tests to its students.
40	(5)	Provide to the Authority graduation rates of the students receiving scholarship
41	` '	grants grants, including four-year cohort graduation rates, in a manner
42.		consistent with nationally recognized standards Title L of the Elementary and

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1		Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended, and any associated federal
2		regulations.
3	(6)	Contract with a certified public accountant to perform a financial review, an
4		audit, consistent with generally accepted methods of accounting or any other
5		comprehensive basis of accounting recognized by the American Institute of
6		Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) for each school year in which the
7		school enrolls 70 or more students receiving scholarship grants or scholarship
8		funds awarded by the Authority.receives at least one hundred thousand dollars
9		(\$100,000) or more in scholarship grants awarded under this Part. If a school
10		receives less than one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000), it shall contract
11		pursuant to this subdivision for an audit every three years. A nonpublic school
12		shall report the results of an audit by December 31 of the year in which the
13		audit is conducted.
14	(7)	Maintain a school facility within the State where in-person instruction is
15		provided. This subdivision does not prohibit a school from offering
16		remote-only courses of instruction in addition to in-person instruction.
17	(8)	Provide the following information annually to the Division:
18	()	a. Name and address of the school, including physical location address.
19		A school with more than one physical location shall establish a
20		separate notice of intent for each physical location and shall provide
21		all information required by this subdivision for each physical location.
22		b. The name of the owners and chief administrator.administrator,
23		including contact information.
24		c. Number of students in attendance at the school as of October 1.
25		(d) All attendance records of students receiving scholarship grants from
26		the previous school year.
27		(e) Documentation of a completed fire inspection in the previous 365
28		days.
29	<u>(9)</u>	For any child with a disability who is a recipient of scholarship funds, educate
30	<u> </u>	that child in accordance with his or her Individualized Education Program
31		(IEP) and in compliance with IDEA, as defined in G.S. 115C-106.3(6), and
32		applicable policies adopted by the State Board of Education for local school
33		administrative units under Article 9 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes.
34	<u>(10)</u>	Comply with the requirements of Article 8C of this Chapter, including the
35	(10)	following:
36		a. School Risk Management Plan. – The nonpublic school, in
37		coordination with local law enforcement agencies, shall adopt a
38		School Risk Management Plan (SRMP) relating to incidents of school
39		violence. In constructing and maintaining these plans, the nonpublic
40		school shall utilize the School Risk and Response Management
41		System established pursuant to G.S. 115C-105.49A. These plans are
42		not considered a public record as the term "public record" is defined
⊤ ∠		not considered a public record as the term public record as defined

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1		under G.S. 132-1 and shall not be subject to inspection and
2		examination under G.S. 132-6.
3	<u>b.</u>	Schematic diagrams and school crisis kits. – The nonpublic school
4		shall provide schematic diagrams and keys to the main entrance of
5		school facilities to local law enforcement agencies, in addition to
6		implementing the provisions in G.S. 115C-105.52.
7	<u>c.</u>	School safety exercises. – At least once a year, the nonpublic school
8		shall hold a full school-wide lockdown exercise with local law
9		enforcement and emergency management agencies that are part of the
10		school's SRMP.
11	<u>d.</u>	Safety information provided to the Department of Public Safety
12		Division of Emergency Management. – The nonpublic school shall
13		provide the following: (i) schematic diagrams, including digital
14		schematic diagrams, and (ii) emergency response information
15		requested by the Division for the SRMP. The schematic diagrams and
16		emergency response information are not considered public records as
17		the term "public record" is defined under G.S. 132-1 and shall not be
18		subject to inspection and examination under G.S. 132-6.
19	(b) A nonpublic s	chool that accepts students receiving scholarship grants shall not require
20	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	on the status of the student as a scholarship grant recipient.
21	•	school enrolling more than 25 students in any grade whose tuition and
22	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	in part with a scholarship grant shall provide and retain information or
23	<u>-</u>	in each grade with more than 25 students, as follows:
24	(1) Repor	t to the Authority on the aggregate standardized test performance of
25	eligib	le students in grades three, eight, and 11.three and higher pursuant to
26 27		vision (4) of subsection (a) of this section. Aggregate test performance
27		eported to the Authority which does not contain personally identifiable
28	studer	nt data shall be a public record under Chapter 132 of the General
29	Statut	es. Statutes, and the Authority shall post this data on its website. Test
30		mance data may be shared with public or private institutions of higher
31	educa	tion located in North Carolina and shall be provided to an independent
32	resear	ch organization selected by the Authority for research purposes as
33	permi	tted by the Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. §
34	1232g	
35	(2) Retain	standardized test performance data for eligible students in all other
36	grades	s and annually certify to the Authority compliance with the requirements
37	of sub	division (4) of subsection (a) of this section.
38	(c1) A nonpublic	school shall not discriminate with respect to the categories listed in 42
39		statute read on January 1, 2014.2014, or on the basis of disability, as
40		with Disabilities Act, 42, U.S.C. § 12102, as that statute read on January
41	1, 2024.	
42	•••	

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fails to (i) report to the Authority nonpublic school administrator lists (a) of this section time the Authority SECT	he date in a tim opened ed in the for that y determ	e school terminates operation during the school's regular schedule and of the closure to the Division within 14 days and (ii) return funds owed nely manner for students who received scholarship grants, any other during that school year or subsequent school years by an owner or chief report submitted to the Division under subdivision (8) of subsection closed school shall be ineligible to receive scholarship grants until such the obligation to return those funds has been satisfied." 4. Article 39 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by the sections to read:
adding the follow	_	pition against discriminatory practices and divisive concepts.
<u></u>		ly finds that Section 1 of Article I of the Constitution of this State
		and rights of all persons. Therefore, it is the intent of the General
		eachers, administrators, and other school employees respect the dignity
		he right of others to express differing opinions, and foster and defend
	_	dom of inquiry and instruction, and freedom of speech and association
	•	ing eligible students receiving scholarship grants employ teaching
	_	to further that intent.
" <u>§ 115C-562.5B.</u>	Definit	tions.
For the purpos	ses of G	s.S. 115C-562.5C, the following definitions apply:
<u>(1)</u>	<u>Discrii</u>	minatory practice Any of the following based on an individual's
	protect	ted classification under federal law:
	<u>a.</u>	Treating an individual differently solely to advantage or disadvantage
		that individual as compared to other individuals or groups.
	<u>b.</u>	Excluding an individual from employment, except as allowed under
		federal law.
	<u>c.</u>	Excluding an individual from participation in an educational program
(2)	D:	or activity, except as allowed under federal law.
<u>(2)</u>		ve concept. – Any of the following concepts:
	<u>a.</u>	One race or sex is inherently superior to another race or sex.
	<u>b.</u>	An individual, solely by virtue of his or her race or sex, is inherently
		racist, sexist, or oppressive.
	<u>c.</u>	An individual should be discriminated against or receive adverse
	d	treatment solely or partly because of his or her race or sex. An individual's moral character is necessarily determined by his or her
	<u>d.</u>	race or sex.
	<u>e.</u>	An individual, solely by virtue of his or her race or sex, bears
	<u>c.</u>	responsibility for actions committed in the past by other members of
		the same race or sex.
	<u>f.</u>	Any individual, solely by virtue of his or her race or sex, should feel
	<u></u>	discomfort guilt anguish or any other form of psychological distress

A meritocracy is inherently racist or sexist.

The United States was created by members of a particular race or sex

for the purpose of oppressing members of another race or sex.

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		1. Particular character traits, values, moral or ethical codes, privileges, or
		beliefs should be ascribed to a race or sex or to an individual because
		of the individual's race or sex.
		j. The rule of law does not exist but instead is a series of power
		relationships and struggles among racial or other groups.
		<u>k.</u> All Americans are not created equal and are not endowed by their
		Creator with certain unalienable rights, including life, liberty, and the
		pursuit of happiness.
		<u>l.</u> Governments should deny to any person within the government's
		jurisdiction the equal protection of the law.
	<u>(3)</u>	<u>Instruction.</u> – <u>Includes content taught or presented to students by employees,</u>
		contractors, or individuals otherwise engaged by a school accepting eligible
		students receiving scholarship grants.
	<u>(4)</u>	Professional development Includes seminars, workshops, and other
		trainings delivered by employees, contractors, or individuals otherwise
		engaged by a school accepting eligible students receiving scholarship grants.
" <u>§ 115C-5</u>	62.5C.	Ensuring dignity and nondiscrimination in schools.
<u>(a)</u>		ols accepting eligible students receiving scholarship grants shall not do any of
the follow	<u>ing:</u>	
	<u>(1)</u>	Engage in or advocate for discriminatory practices.
	<u>(2)</u>	Compel students, teachers, administrators, or other school employees to
		affirm or profess belief in divisive concepts.
	<u>(3)</u>	Provide instruction to students on divisive concepts.
	<u>(4)</u>	Engage in any of the following with respect to professional development that
		includes or advocates for divisive concepts or discriminatory practices:
		<u>a.</u> <u>Approve, recommend, or require a professional educator to participate</u>
		in the professional development.
		<u>b.</u> <u>Develop, purchase, or provide the professional development.</u>
		 <u>Contract with an entity for the professional development.</u> <u>Provide an entity access for the purpose of delivering the professional</u>
		<u>d.</u> <u>Provide an entity access for the purpose of delivering the professional</u>
		<u>development.</u>
	<u>(5)</u>	Maintain an office, division, or other unit promoting discriminatory practices
		or divisive concepts.
	<u>(6)</u>	Employ or assign an employee whose duties for the school include promoting
		discriminatory practices or divisive concepts.
<u>(b)</u>	This s	ection shall not be construed to limit any of the following:
	<u>(1)</u>	Speech protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.
	<u>(2)</u>	Materials accessed on an individual basis that advocate divisive concepts or
		discriminatory practices for the purpose of research or independent study.
	<u>(3)</u>	Policies, procedures, or professional development required by State or federal
		<u>law.</u>
	(a) the follow	(4) "§ 115C-562.5C. (a) School the following: (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (b) This s (1) (2)

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1		(4) Instruction on divisive concepts in contexts that make clear the school does
2		not sponsor, approve, or endorse any divisive concepts, including instruction
3		related to the following:
4		<u>a.</u> <u>The impartial discussion of controversial aspects of history.</u>
5		b. The impartial discussion of the historical oppression of a particular
6		group of people based on race, ethnicity, class, nationality, religion, or
7		geographic region.
8	<u>(c)</u>	Each school accepting eligible students receiving scholarship grants shall certify
9		n writing by September 1 to the Authority that the school fully complies with the
10	<u>requireme</u>	nts of this section, including any actions taken to achieve compliance. The Authority
11	shall sumr	narize the certifications in a consolidated report by January 15 annually to the Joint
12		e Commission on Governmental Operations and the Joint Legislative Education
13	Oversight	Committee."
14		SECTION 2.5. G.S. 115C-562.7 reads as rewritten:
15	"	
16	(b)	The Authority shall report annually, no later than October 15, to the Joint Legislative
17	Education	Oversight Committee on the following information from the prior school year:
18		(1) Total number, grade level, race, ethnicity, and sex of eligible students
19		receiving scholarship grants.
20		(2) Total amount of scholarship grant funding awarded.
21		(3) Repealed by Session Laws 2023-134, s. 8A.6(f), effective July 1, 2023.
22		(4) Nonpublic schools in which scholarship grant recipients are enrolled,
23		including numbers of scholarship grant students at each nonpublic school.
24		(5) Nonpublic schools deemed ineligible to receive scholarships.
25		(6) Compliance with the academic assessments required by G.S. 115C-
26		<u>562.5(a)(4).</u>
27	(-)	No leave the Contember 20 of south sound the Anthonia in sound to the
28	(g)	No later than September 30 of each year, the Authority, in consultation with the
29		nt of Public Instruction, shall publish on its website school achievement, growth, and
30 31		ce scores of nonpublic schools accepting more than 25 students in any grade whose
32		l fees are paid in whole or in part with a scholarship grant. The scores shall be calculated
33	pursuant u	o the methodology provided in G.S. 115C-83.15." SECTION 2.6. Article 41 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by
34	adding the	following new section to read:
35	_	93.5. Academic assessments.
36	(a)	A nonpublic school that accepts eligible students receiving scholarship funds shall
37		the dest once in each school year, all tests required by the State Board of Education
38		o G.S. 115C-174.11(c) for students in grades three through 12 in a local school
39	administra	
40	(b)	Test performance data for students shall be submitted to the Authority by July 15 of
41		The nonpublic school shall retain this data for five years, and the Authority may audit
42		plic school to ensure compliance with the retention requirement. Test performance data
43		the Authority or collected by the Authority under this subdivision is not a public

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1	record under Ch	apter 132 of the General Statutes, to the extent the data contains personally	
2	identifiable infor	•	
3	(c) Tests shall be administered to all eligible students enrolled in grades three and higher		
4		d fees are paid in whole or in part with scholarship funds.	
5	(d) The	Authority shall provide the parent or guardian of an eligible student, whose	
6	tuition and fees a	re paid in whole or in part with scholarship funds, an annual written explanation	
7		progress, including the student's scores on standardized achievement tests. If an	
8	eligible student	received a written assessment pursuant to G.S. 115C-562.5(a)(3) for a school	
9	year, the written	assessment may be used to meet the requirements of this subsection.	
10	(d) Nothi	ing in this subdivision shall prohibit a nonpublic school from administering	
11	additional tests to	o its students."	
12	SEC	ΓΙΟΝ 2.7. G.S. 115C-598 reads as rewritten:	
13	"§ 115C-598. R	eporting requirements.	
14	(a) The A	Authority shall report annually, no later than October 15, to the Joint Legislative	
15	Education Overs	ight Committee on the following information from the prior school year:	
16			
17	<u>(6)</u>	Compliance with the academic assessments required by G.S. 115C-593.5.	
18	"		
19		FION 2.8. Article 41 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by	
20	_	ving new sections to read:	
21		Prohibition against discriminatory practices and divisive concepts.	
22		Assembly finds that Section 1 of Article I of the Constitution of this State	
23		equality and rights of all persons. Therefore, it is the intent of the General	
24		udents, teachers, administrators, and other school employees respect the dignity	
25		wledge the right of others to express differing opinions, and foster and defend	
26		sty, freedom of inquiry and instruction, and freedom of speech and association	
27		that enroll scholarship recipients employ teaching methods and procedures to	
28	further that inten		
29	" <u>§ 115C-597.6.</u>		
30		oses of G.S. 115C-597.7, the following definitions apply:	
31	<u>(1)</u>	<u>Discriminatory practice. – Any of the following based on an individual's</u>	
32		protected classification under federal law:	
33		a. Treating an individual differently solely to advantage or disadvantage	
34		that individual as compared to other individuals or groups.	
35		b. Excluding an individual from employment, except as allowed under	
36		federal law.	
37		c. Excluding an individual from participation in an educational program	
38	(2)	or activity, except as allowed under federal law.	
39	<u>(2)</u>	Divisive concept. – Any of the following concepts:	
40		a. One race or sex is inherently superior to another race or sex.	
41		b. An individual, solely by virtue of his or her race or sex, is inherently	
42		racist, sexist, or oppressive.	

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1		<u>c.</u>	An individual should be discriminated against or receive adverse
2			treatment solely or partly because of his or her race or sex.
3		<u>d.</u>	An individual's moral character is necessarily determined by his or her
4			race or sex.
5		<u>e.</u>	An individual, solely by virtue of his or her race or sex, bears
6			responsibility for actions committed in the past by other members of
7			the same race or sex.
8		<u>f.</u>	Any individual, solely by virtue of his or her race or sex, should feel
9			discomfort, guilt, anguish, or any other form of psychological distress.
10		<u>g.</u>	A meritocracy is inherently racist or sexist.
11		<u>h.</u>	The United States was created by members of a particular race or sex
12			for the purpose of oppressing members of another race or sex.
13		<u>i.</u>	Particular character traits, values, moral or ethical codes, privileges, or
12 13 14			beliefs should be ascribed to a race or sex or to an individual because
15			of the individual's race or sex.
16		<u>j.</u>	The rule of law does not exist but instead is a series of power
17			relationships and struggles among racial or other groups.
18		<u>k.</u>	All Americans are not created equal and are not endowed by their
19			Creator with certain unalienable rights, including life, liberty, and the
20			pursuit of happiness.
21		<u>l.</u>	Governments should deny to any person within the government's
21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28			jurisdiction the equal protection of the law.
23	<u>(3)</u>	<u>Instru</u>	action. – Includes content taught or presented to students by employees,
24		contra	actors, or individuals otherwise engaged by a nonpublic school that
25		accep	ts eligible students receiving scholarship funds.
26	<u>(4)</u>	Profe	ssional development Includes seminars, workshops, and other
27		<u>traini</u>	ngs delivered by employees, contractors, or individuals otherwise
28		engag	ged by a nonpublic school that accepts eligible students receiving
29		schol	arship funds.
30	" <u>§ 115C-597.7.</u>	Ensuri	ng dignity and nondiscrimination in schools.
31	(a) Nong	<u>public sc</u>	hools that enroll scholarship recipients shall not do any of the following:
32	<u>(1)</u>	Enga;	ge in or advocate for discriminatory practices.
33	<u>(2)</u>	Comp	pel students, teachers, administrators, or other school employees to
34		<u>affirn</u>	or profess belief in divisive concepts.
35	<u>(3)</u>	<u>Provi</u>	de instruction to students on divisive concepts.
36	<u>(4)</u>	Enga	ge in any of the following with respect to professional development that
37		includ	des or advocates for divisive concepts or discriminatory practices:
38		<u>a.</u>	Approve, recommend, or require a professional educator to participate
39			in the professional development.
40		<u>b.</u>	Develop, purchase, or provide the professional development.
41		<u>c.</u>	Contract with an entity for the professional development.
1 2		<u>d.</u>	Provide an entity access for the purpose of delivering the professional
43			development.

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1		<u>(5)</u>	Maintain an office, division, or other unit promoting discriminatory practices
2			or divisive concepts.
3		<u>(6)</u>	Employ or assign an employee whose duties for the school include promoting
4			discriminatory practices or divisive concepts.
5	<u>(b)</u>	This	section shall not be construed to limit any of the following:
6		<u>(1)</u>	Speech protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.
7		<u>(2)</u>	Materials accessed on an individual basis that advocate divisive concepts or
8			discriminatory practices for the purpose of research or independent study.
9		<u>(3)</u>	Policies, procedures, or professional development required by State or federal
10			<u>law.</u>
11		<u>(4)</u>	Instruction on divisive concepts in contexts that make clear the school does
12			not sponsor, approve, or endorse any divisive concepts, including instruction
13			related to the following:
14			a. The impartial discussion of controversial aspects of history.
15			b. The impartial discussion of the historical oppression of a particular
16			group of people based on race, ethnicity, class, nationality, religion, or
17			geographic region.
18	<u>(c)</u>	Nong	public schools that enroll scholarship recipients shall certify annually in writing
19	by Septe	mber 1	to the Authority that the school fully complies with the requirements of this
20			g any actions taken to achieve compliance. The Authority shall summarize the
21	certificat	ions in a	a consolidated report by January 15 annually to the Joint Legislative Commission
22	on Gover	rnmenta	d Operations and the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee.";
23			
24	And on p	age 3, l	ine 45 by rewriting the line to read:
25			
26			CTION 6. This act is effective when it becomes law. Sections 2.3 and 2.6 apply
27	beginnin	g with t	he 2025-2026 school year.";
28			
29	And by r	ewriting	g the Short Title to read:
30			
31	"Promoti	ng Equ	ality in Education.".
32			
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FAILED

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AMENDMENT NO. _ A 1 (to be filled in by Principal Clerk)

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SIGNED _		_
_	Amendment Sponsor	_
SIGNED		
	Committee Chair if Senate Committee Amendment	_
ADOPTED	FAILED	TABLED

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