

SSB 5297-CC - S AMD 63

By Senators Haugen, McAuliffe, Brown

ADOPTED 03/07/2007

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that young people
4 should have the knowledge and skills necessary to build healthy
5 relationships, and to protect themselves from unintended pregnancy and
6 sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV infection. The primary
7 responsibility for sexual health education is with parents and
8 guardians. However, this responsibility also extends to schools and
9 other community groups. It is in the public's best interest to ensure
10 that young people are equipped with medically and scientifically
11 accurate, age-appropriate information that will help them avoid
12 unintended pregnancies, remain free of sexually transmitted diseases,
13 and make informed, responsible decisions throughout their lives.

14 (2) The legislature intends to support and advance the standards
15 established in the January 2005 guidelines for sexual health
16 information and disease prevention developed by the office of the
17 superintendent of public instruction and the department of health.
18 These guidelines are a fundamental tool to help school districts,
19 teachers, guest speakers, health and counseling providers, community
20 groups, parents, and guardians choose, develop, and evaluate sexual
21 health curricula to better meet the health and safety needs of
22 adolescents and young adults in their communities.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
24 RCW to read as follows:

25 (1) By September 1, 2008, every public school that offers sexual
26 health education must assure that sexual health education is medically
27 and scientifically accurate, age-appropriate, appropriate for students
28 regardless of gender, race, disability status, or sexual orientation,
29 and includes information about abstinence and other methods of

1 preventing unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. All
2 sexual health information, instruction, and materials must be medically
3 and scientifically accurate. Abstinence may not be taught to the
4 exclusion of other materials and instruction on contraceptives and
5 disease prevention. Sexual health education must be consistent with
6 the January 2005 guidelines for sexual health information and disease
7 prevention developed by the department of health and the office of the
8 superintendent of public instruction.

9 (2) As used in this act, "medically and scientifically accurate"
10 means information that is verified or supported by research in
11 compliance with scientific methods, is published in peer-review
12 journals, where appropriate, and is recognized as accurate and
13 objective by professional organizations and agencies with expertise in
14 the field of sexual health including but not limited to the American
15 college of obstetricians and gynecologists, the Washington state
16 department of health, and the federal centers for disease control and
17 prevention.

18 (3) The superintendent of public instruction and the department of
19 health shall make the January 2005 guidelines for sexual health
20 information and disease prevention available to school districts,
21 teachers, and guest speakers on their web sites. Within available
22 resources, the superintendent of public instruction and the department
23 of health shall make any related information, model policies,
24 curricula, or other resources available as well.

25 (4) The superintendent of public instruction, in consultation with
26 the department of health, shall develop a list of sexual health
27 education curricula that are consistent with the 2005 guidelines for
28 sexual health information and disease prevention. This list shall be
29 intended to serve as a resource for schools, teachers, or any other
30 organization or community group, and shall be updated no less
31 frequently than annually and made available on the web sites of the
32 office of the superintendent of public instruction and the department
33 of health.

34 (5) Public schools that offer sexual health education are
35 encouraged to review their sexual health curricula and choose a
36 curriculum from the list developed under subsection (4) of this
37 section. Any public school that offers sexual health education may

1 identify, choose, or develop any other curriculum, if the curriculum
2 chosen or developed complies with the requirements of this section.

3 (6) Any parent or legal guardian who wishes to have his or her
4 child excused from any planned instruction in sexual health education
5 may do so upon filing a written request with the school district board
6 of directors or its designee, or the principal of the school his or her
7 child attends, or the principal's designee. In addition, any parent or
8 legal guardian may review the sexual health education curriculum
9 offered in his or her child's school by filing a written request with
10 the school district board of directors, the principal of the school his
11 or her child attends, or the principal's designee.

12 (7) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall,
13 through its Washington state school health profiles survey or other
14 existing reporting mechanism, ask public schools to identify any
15 curricula used to provide sexual health education, and shall report the
16 results of this inquiry to the legislature on a biennial basis,
17 beginning with the 2008-09 school year.

18 (8) The requirement to report harassment, intimidation, or bullying
19 under RCW 28A.600.480(2) applies to this section.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act may be known and cited as the
21 healthy youth act."

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22 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "schools;" strike "amending
23 RCW 28A.600.480;"

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