
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1855

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By House Committee on Health Care & Wellness (originally sponsored by Representatives Schual-Berke, Kessler, Walsh, Appleton, Linville, Darneille, Hankins, Kenney, Lantz, Green, McCoy, Quall, Morrell, Haigh, Fromhold, Hunt, Dunshee, P. Sullivan, McDermott, McIntire, Wood, Dickerson, Ericks, Moeller, Pedersen, Conway, Hasegawa, Roberts, Sequist, Kagi, Sells, Upthegrove, Williams, Goodman, Simpson, Springer, Chase and Jarrett)

READ FIRST TIME 02/08/07.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing sexual health education in schools
2 that is consistent with the 2005 guidelines for sexual health
3 information and disease prevention; adding a new section to chapter
4 28A.230 RCW; and creating new sections.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

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

18 (2) The legislature intends to support and advance the standards
19 established in the January 2005 guidelines for sexual health

1 information and disease prevention developed by the office of the
2 superintendent of public instruction and the department of health.
3 These guidelines are a fundamental tool to help school districts,
4 teachers, guest speakers, health and counseling providers, community
5 groups, parents, and guardians choose, develop, and evaluate sexual
6 health curricula to better meet the health and safety needs of
7 adolescents and young adults in their communities.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.230
9 RCW to read as follows:

10 (1) By September 1, 2008, every public school that offers sexual
11 health education must assure that sexual health education is medically
12 and scientifically accurate, age-appropriate, appropriate for students
13 regardless of gender, race, disability status, or sexual orientation,
14 and includes information about abstinence and other methods of
15 preventing unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. All
16 sexual health information, instruction, and materials must be medically
17 and scientifically accurate. Abstinence may not be taught to the
18 exclusion of other materials and instruction on contraceptives and
19 disease prevention. Sexual health education must be consistent with
20 the January 2005 guidelines for sexual health information and disease
21 prevention developed by the department of health and the office of the
22 superintendent of public instruction.

23 (2) As used in this act, "medically and scientifically accurate"
24 means information that is verified or supported by research in
25 compliance with scientific methods, is published in peer-review
26 journals, where appropriate, and is recognized as accurate and
27 objective by professional organizations and agencies with expertise in
28 the field of sexual health including but not limited to the American
29 college of obstetricians and gynecologists, the Washington state
30 department of health, and the federal centers for disease control and
31 prevention.

32 (3) The superintendent of public instruction and the department of
33 health shall make the January 2005 guidelines for sexual health
34 information and disease prevention available to school districts,
35 teachers, and guest speakers on their web sites. Within available
36 resources, the superintendent of public instruction and the department

1 of health shall make any related information, model policies,
2 curricula, or other resources available as well.

3 (4) The superintendent of public instruction, in consultation with
4 the department of health, shall develop a list of sexual health
5 education curricula that are consistent with the 2005 guidelines for
6 sexual health information and disease prevention. This list shall be
7 intended to serve as a resource for schools, teachers, or any other
8 organization or community group, and shall be updated no less
9 frequently than annually and made available on the web sites of the
10 office of the superintendent of public instruction and the department
11 of health.

12 (5) Public schools that offer sexual health education are
13 encouraged to review their sexual health curricula and choose a
14 curriculum from the list developed under subsection (4) of this
15 section. Any public school that offers sexual health education may
16 identify, choose, or develop any other curriculum, if the curriculum
17 chosen or developed complies with the requirements of this section.

18 (6) Any parent or legal guardian who wishes to have his or her
19 child excused from any planned instruction in sexual health education
20 may do so upon filing a written request with the school district board
21 of directors or its designee. In addition, any parent or legal
22 guardian may review the sexual health education curriculum offered in
23 his or her child's school by filing a written request with the school
24 district board of directors, the principal of the school his or her
25 child attends, or the principal's designee.

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

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act may be known and cited as the
33 healthy youth act.

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