

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

1 State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: S2/26/19 H4/1/19*
2 92nd General Assembly **A Bill**
3 Regular Session, 2019

SENATE BILL 304

4
5 By: Senators Bond, Elliott, G. Leding, K. Ingram
6 By: Representatives Burch, A. Collins, D. Garner, McCullough, Scott

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8 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

9 AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS HEALTHY LIFESTYLE
10 EDUCATION ACT OF 2019; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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13 **Subtitle**

14 TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS HEALTHY LIFESTYLE
15 EDUCATION ACT OF 2019; AND TO ENSURE THE
16 HEALTH CURRICULUM IN ARKANSAS PUBLIC
17 SCHOOLS ADDRESSES CERTAIN HEALTH ISSUES
18 FACING STUDENTS.

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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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23 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Title.

24 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Arkansas Healthy
25 Lifestyle Education Act of 2019".

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27 SECTION 2. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings.

28 The General Assembly finds that:

29 (1) According to a 2018 report by the United Health Foundation,
30 Arkansas ranks number forty-six (46) in the nation for overall health;

31 (2) Based on the 2017 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
32 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance report, Arkansas ranks highest in the nation
33 for the percentage of students who:

34 (A) Have considered suicide;

35 (B) Are considered obese;

36 (C) Have been forced to have sex; or



1 (D) Use smokeless tobacco;

2 (3) According to data reported in 2016 by the Centers for
3 Disease Control and Prevention, Arkansas ranked highest in the nation for
4 teen birth rates; and

5 (4) As a result of Arkansas's rankings in these nationwide
6 findings, it is imperative that the General Assembly ensure that certain
7 topics are addressed in the student health curriculum in our secondary public
8 schools.

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10 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 16, Subchapter 10, is
11 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

12 6-16-1005. Health curriculum requirements.

13 (a) A public school district may offer an age-appropriate health
14 course with a curriculum that provides instruction to public school students
15 in grades seven through twelve (7-12) on:

16 (1)(A) Mental health issues.

17 (B) Instruction on topics pertaining to mental health
18 issues under this section shall include the following:

19 (i) Suicide prevention methods; and

20 (ii) Information regarding recognition of mental
21 health crises;

22 (2)(A) Substance abuse and addiction issues.

23 (B) Instruction on topics pertaining to substance abuse
24 and addiction issues under this section shall include information regarding
25 the following:

26 (i) Abuse of prescription drugs, illicit drugs,
27 alcohol, and other substances known to be abused; and

28 (ii) Substance abuse, consequences of substance
29 abuse, and prevention methods;

30 (3)(A) Diet and obesity issues.

31 (B) Instruction on topics pertaining to diet and obesity
32 issues under this section shall include information regarding the following:

33 (i) Obesity;

34 (ii) Cardiovascular disease; and

35 (iii) Type 2 diabetes;

36 (4)(A) Tobacco use prevention and cessation.

1 (B) Instruction on topics pertaining to tobacco use
2 prevention and cessation under this section shall include information
3 regarding the following:

4 (i) Adverse health effects of using any form of
5 tobacco or nicotine delivery system;

6 (ii) E-cigarettes and vaping;

7 (iii) Addiction; and

8 (iv) Cessation; and

9 (5)(A) Teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections
10 prevention.

11 (B) Instruction on topics pertaining to teenage pregnancy
12 prevention under this section shall include information regarding the
13 prevention of pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections through age-
14 appropriate and primary prevention-risk avoidance approaches.

15 (C) A parent or legal guardian of a public school student
16 may submit a written request for his or her child to be excused from all or
17 any part of the health curriculum regarding teenage pregnancy and sexually
18 transmitted infections prevention under subdivisions (a)(5)(A) and (B) of
19 this section.

20 (b) The Department of Education shall:

21 (1) Identify, in consultation with the Department of Health,
22 resources required under this section; and

23 (2) Provide professional development support for teachers who
24 are responsible for implementing the health curriculum required under this
25 section.

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27 /s/Bond
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