

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2019-007

1 State of Arkansas
2 92nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2019

A Bill

TNL/TNL
HOUSE BILL

4 By: Representative Cozart

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6
7 Filed with: House Committee on Education
8 pursuant to A.C.A. §10-3-217.

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH INSTRUCTION REQUIRED BY
10 PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS; TO REQUIRE THAT A PUBLIC
11 SCHOOL DISTRICT PROVIDE AGE-APPROPRIATE AND RESEARCH-
12 BASED INSTRUCTION IN HUMAN GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT TO
13 A PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

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17 TO REQUIRE THAT A PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
18 PROVIDE AGE-APPROPRIATE AND RESEARCH-
19 BASED INSTRUCTION IN HUMAN GROWTH AND
20 DEVELOPMENT TO A PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT.
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23
24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

25
26 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 18, Subchapter 7, is amended
27 to add an additional section to read as follows:

28 6-18-714. Human growth and development instruction.

29 (a) As used in this section:

30 (1) "Age-appropriate" means topics, messages, instructional
31 materials, and teaching methods that are suitable for a particular age or age
32 group of children and adolescents based on developing cognitive, emotional,
33 and behavioral capacities typical for the age or age group; and

34 (2) "Research-based materials" means information that is:

35 (A) Verified or supported by the weight of research
36 conducted in compliance with accepted scientific methods;

1 (B) Recognized as medically accurate and objective by
2 leading professional organizations and agencies with relevant expertise in
3 the field, including without limitation the:

4 (i) American College of Obstetricians and
5 Gynecologists;

6 (ii) American Public Health Association;

7 (iii) American Academy of Pediatrics; and

8 (iv) National Association of School Nurses; and

9 (C) Published in peer-reviewed journals, if appropriate;
10 and

11 (D) Free of racial, ethnic, sexual orientation, and gender
12 biases.

13 (b) A public school district shall provide:

14 (1)(A) Instruction that includes information regarding life
15 skills and human growth and development to public school students in
16 kindergarten.

17 (B) Public school districts shall use research-based
18 materials in order to develop, evaluate, and update instructional materials
19 and teaching strategies for the instruction required under subdivision
20 (b)(1)(A) of this section;

21 (2) Age-appropriate and research-based materials for the
22 instruction in human growth and development to public school students in
23 grades one through twelve (1-12), including without limitation instruction
24 regarding:

25 (A) Human sexuality;

26 (B) Self-esteem;

27 (C) Stress management;

28 (D) Interpersonal relationships;

29 (E) Domestic abuse;

30 (F) Human papillomavirus and the availability of a vaccine
31 to prevent human papillomavirus; and

32 (G) Acquired immune deficiency syndrome;

33 (3) Annually to a parent or legal guardian of a public school
34 student enrolled in the public school district information regarding the:

1 (A) Human growth and development instruction required
2 under this section that is used in the public school student's grade level;
3 and

4 (B) Procedure by which the parent or legal guardian of a
5 public school student may inspect the instructional materials used for the
6 human growth and development instruction under this section before the
7 instructional materials are used in the public school student's classroom;
8 and

9 (4) Upon request by a public agency or organization, information
10 to the public agency or organization regarding the:

11 (A) Human growth and development instruction required
12 under this section that is used in each grade level; and

13 (B) Procedure by which the public agency or organization
14 may inspect and update the instructional materials that are used for the
15 human growth and development instruction required under this section.

16 (c)(1) A public school student shall not be required by the public
17 school district to receive the human growth and development instruction
18 required under this section if the public school student's parent or legal
19 guardian files with the public school principal a written request that his or
20 her child be excused from the human growth and development instruction.

21 (2) A public school district shall provide to each parent or
22 legal guardian of a public school student information regarding the fact that
23 he or she may make a written request that his or her child be excused from
24 the human growth and development instruction required under this section.

25 (d) A public school district or a community college as defined in § 6-
26 61-501 that offers general adult education classes or courses shall offer
27 periodically for parents, legal guardians, prospective biological parents,
28 prospective adoptive parents, and foster parents an instructional program in:

- 29 (1) Parenting skills; and
- 30 (2) Human growth and development.

31 (e) An area education agency shall offer periodically a staff
32 development program for teachers who provide instruction in human growth and
33 development as required under this section.

34 (f) The Department of Education shall identify and disseminate
35 information regarding early intervention programs for public school students
36 who are at the greatest risk of:

- (1) Dropping out of school;
- (2) Substance abuse;
- (3) Adolescent pregnancy; or
- (4) Suicide.

(g) A public school district may develop and make available abstinence-based or abstinence-only materials to be used for the human sexuality component of the human growth and development instruction required under subdivision (b)(2)(A) of this section.

Referred by Representative Cozart

Prepared by: TNL/TNL