

1 State of Arkansas
2 92nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2019
4

As Engrossed: S2/26/19

A Bill

SENATE BILL 304

5 By: Senators Bond, Elliott, G. Leding, K. Ingram
6 By: Representatives Burch, A. Collins, D. Garner, McCullough, Scott
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For An Act To Be Entitled

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

11 TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS HEALTHY LIFESTYLE
12 EDUCATION ACT OF 2019; AND TO ENSURE THE
13 HEALTH CURRICULUM IN ARKANSAS PUBLIC
14 SCHOOLS ADDRESSES CERTAIN HEALTH ISSUES
15 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) Beginning in the 2019-2020 school year, each school district shall
14 offer a health course with a curriculum that provides evidence-based
15 instruction to each student in grades seven through twelve (7-12) on:

16 (1)(A) Mental health issues.

17 (B) The mental health curriculum required under this
18 section shall include without limitation 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) The substance abuse and addiction curriculum required
24 under this section shall include without limitation the following:

25 (i) Information regarding prescription drug abuse,
26 illicit drug abuse, alcohol abuse, and other substances known to be abused
27 during adolescence; and

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

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

31 (B) The diet and obesity curriculum required under this
32 section shall include information aimed at preventing physical health issues,
33 including without limitation:

34 (i) Obesity;

35 (ii) Cardiovascular disease; and

36 (iii) Type 2 diabetes;

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

2 (B) The tobacco use prevention and cessation curriculum
3 required under this section shall include without limitation information
4 regarding the following:

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

7 (ii) E-cigarettes and vaping;

8 (iii) Addiction; and

9 (iv) Cessation; and

10 (5)(A) Teenage pregnancy prevention.

11 (B) The teenage pregnancy prevention curriculum required
12 under this section shall include without limitation information regarding the
13 following:

14 (i) The prevention of unintended pregnancy and
15 sexually transmitted infections through abstinence and contraception; and

16 (ii) The topic of consent and health relationships.

17 (C) A parent or guardian may submit a written request for
18 his or her child to be excused from all or any part of the health curriculum
19 regarding teenage pregnancy prevention under this subdivision (a)(5) of this
20 section.

21 (b) The Department of Education shall:

22 (1) Identify and develop, in consultation with the University of
23 Arkansas for Medical Sciences and the Department of Health, evidence-based
24 health resources required under this section; and

25 (2) Provide professional development support regarding academic
26 health standards and evidence-based resources for teachers who are
27 responsible for implementing the health curriculum required under this
28 section.

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31 /s/Bond
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