

By: Deshotel, Eissler, et al.

H.B. No. 3076

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a parenting and paternity awareness program used in the health curriculum for public schools.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 28.002, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsection (p) and adding Subsections (p-2), (p-3), and (p-4) to read as follows:

(p) The State Board of Education, in conjunction with the office of the attorney general, shall develop a parenting and paternity awareness program that a school district shall use in the district's high school health curriculum. A school district may use the program developed under this subsection in the district's middle or junior high school curriculum. At the discretion of the district, a teacher may modify the suggested sequence and pace of the program at any grade level. The program must:

(1) address parenting skills and responsibilities, including child support and other legal rights and responsibilities that come with parenthood;

(2) address relationship skills, including money management, communication skills, and marriage preparation; and

(3) in district middle, junior high, or high schools that do not have a family violence prevention program, address skills relating to the prevention of family violence.

(p-2) A school district may develop or adopt research-based

1 programs and curriculum materials for use in conjunction with the
2 program developed under Subsection (p). The programs and
3 curriculum materials may provide instruction in:

- 4 (1) child development;
5 (2) parenting skills, including child abuse and
6 neglect prevention; and
7 (3) assertiveness skills to prevent teenage
8 pregnancy, abusive relationships, and family violence.

9 (p-3) The agency shall evaluate programs and curriculum
10 materials developed under Subsection (p-2) and distribute to other
11 school districts information regarding those programs and
12 materials.

13 (p-4) A student under 14 years of age may not participate in
14 a program developed under Subsection (p) without the permission of
15 the student's parent or person standing in parental relation to the
16 student.

17 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2009-2010
18 school year.

19 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
20 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
21 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
22 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
23 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.