

By: González of El Paso

H.B. No. 1547

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to human sexuality education in public schools.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 28.0043 to read as follows:

Sec. 28.0043. HUMAN SEXUALITY EDUCATION. (a) In this section:

(1) "Age appropriate" means topics, messages, and teaching methods suitable to particular ages or age groups of children or adolescents, based on developing cognitive, emotional, and behavioral capacity typical for the age or age group.

(2) "Medically accurate" means supported by peer-reviewed research conducted in compliance with accepted scientific methods and recognized as accurate by leading professional organizations and agencies with relevant experience, such as the American Medical Association.

(b) A school district shall provide human sexuality education in accordance with this section at grade levels specified by the State Board of Education.

(c) The State Board of Education by rule shall adopt the essential knowledge and skills for medically accurate, age-appropriate curriculum to be used by a school district in providing human sexuality education under this section. As age appropriate, the curriculum must:

1 (1) cover human sexuality, pregnancy, and sexually
2 transmitted infections;

3 (2) discuss human sexuality as a normal and healthy
4 aspect of human development;

5 (3) present abstinence from sexual activity as the
6 preferred choice of behavior in relationship to all sexual activity
7 for unmarried persons of school age;

8 (4) devote sufficient attention to abstinence from
9 sexual activity to emphasize the importance of abstinence;

10 (5) emphasize that abstinence from sexual activity, if
11 used consistently and correctly, is the only method that is 100
12 percent effective in preventing pregnancy and sexually transmitted
13 infections;

14 (6) provide information about the health benefits,
15 side effects, and proper use of the methods approved by the United
16 States Food and Drug Administration for preventing unintended
17 pregnancy and reducing the risk of contracting sexually transmitted
18 infections; and

19 (7) promote relationship, communication, and
20 decision-making skills, including strategies to:

21 (A) develop healthy, age-appropriate
22 relationships;

23 (B) develop healthy life skills, including
24 critical thinking, problem solving, effective communication, and
25 responsible decision making about sexuality and relationships; and

26 (C) promote effective communication between
27 adolescents and their parents, legal guardians, or other family

1 members about sexuality and relationships.

2 (d) A school district may separate students according to sex
3 when providing instruction under this section.

4 (e) A school district shall make all curriculum materials
5 used in the district's human sexuality education available for
6 reasonable public inspection.

7 (f) A school district shall adopt a policy regarding whether
8 condoms may be distributed in connection with human sexuality
9 education.

10 (g) A student shall be excused from human sexuality
11 education on the written request of a parent or legal guardian
12 without being subjected to any disciplinary action, academic
13 penalty, or other sanction imposed by the school district or the
14 student's school.

15 (h) Before each school year, a school district shall provide
16 written notice to a parent of each student enrolled in the district
17 of the intent to provide human sexuality education under this
18 section. The notice must include:

19 (1) a summary of the basic content of the human
20 sexuality education to be provided to the student;

21 (2) the district's policy on the distribution of
22 condoms in connection with human sexuality education; and

23 (3) a statement of the parent's right to:

24 (A) review curriculum materials as provided by
25 Subsection (e); and

26 (B) remove the student from any part of the
27 district's human sexuality education as provided by Subsection (g).

1 SECTION 2. Section 12.104(b), Education Code, is amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (b) An open-enrollment charter school is subject to:

4 (1) a provision of this title establishing a criminal
5 offense; and

6 (2) a prohibition, restriction, or requirement, as
7 applicable, imposed by this title or a rule adopted under this
8 title, relating to:

9 (A) the Public Education Information Management
10 System (PEIMS) to the extent necessary to monitor compliance with
11 this subchapter as determined by the commissioner;

12 (B) criminal history records under Subchapter C,
13 Chapter 22;

14 (C) reading instruments and accelerated reading
15 instruction programs under Section 28.006;

16 (D) accelerated instruction under Section
17 28.0211;

18 (E) high school graduation requirements under
19 Section 28.025;

20 (F) special education programs under Subchapter
21 A, Chapter 29;

22 (G) bilingual education under Subchapter B,
23 Chapter 29;

24 (H) prekindergarten programs under Subchapter E
25 or E-1, Chapter 29;

26 (I) extracurricular activities under Section
27 33.081;

1 (J) discipline management practices or behavior
2 management techniques under Section 37.0021;

3 (K) health and safety under Chapter 38;

4 (L) public school accountability under
5 Subchapters B, C, D, E, F, G, and J, Chapter 39;

6 (M) the requirement under Section 21.006 to
7 report an educator's misconduct;

8 (N) intensive programs of instruction under
9 Section 28.0213; ~~and~~

10 (O) the right of a school employee to report a
11 crime, as provided by Section 37.148; and

12 (P) human sexuality education under Section
13 28.0043.

14 SECTION 3. Sections 28.004(c) and (n), Education Code, are
15 amended to read as follows:

16 (c) The local school health advisory council's duties
17 include recommending:

18 (1) the number of hours of instruction to be provided
19 in health education;

20 (2) policies, procedures, strategies, and curriculum
21 appropriate for specific grade levels designed to prevent obesity,
22 cardiovascular disease, Type 2 diabetes, and mental health concerns
23 through coordination of:

24 (A) health education;

25 (B) physical education and physical activity;

26 (C) nutrition services;

27 (D) parental involvement;

- (E) instruction to prevent the use of tobacco;
- (F) school health services;
- (G) counseling and guidance services;
- (H) a safe and healthy school environment; and
- (I) school employee wellness;

(3) ~~[appropriate grade levels and methods of instruction for human sexuality instruction,~~

~~(4)]~~ strategies for integrating the curriculum components specified by Subdivision (2) with the following elements in a coordinated school health program for the district:

- (A) school health services;
- (B) counseling and guidance services;
- (C) a safe and healthy school environment; and
- (D) school employee wellness; and

(4) ~~(5)]~~ if feasible, joint use agreements or strategies for collaboration between the school district and community organizations or agencies.

(n) Any joint use agreement that a school district and community organization or agency enter into based on a recommendation of the local school health advisory council under Subsection (c)(4) ~~(c)(5)]~~ must address liability for the school district and community organization or agency in the agreement.

SECTION 4. Sections 28.004(e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (i-1), and (j), Education Code, are repealed.

SECTION 5. This Act applies beginning with the 2018-2019 school year.

SECTION 6. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives

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1 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
3 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
4 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.