By:  Leo-Wilson H.B. No. 574

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the inclusion of instruction regarding the beginning of human life in the health curriculum for public school students.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 28.002(a), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a)  Each school district that offers kindergarten through grade 12 shall offer, as a required curriculum:

(1)  a foundation curriculum that includes:

(A)  English language arts;

(B)  mathematics;

(C)  science; and

(D)  social studies, consisting of Texas, United States, and world history, government, economics, with emphasis on the free enterprise system and its benefits, and geography; and

(2)  an enrichment curriculum that includes:

(A)  to the extent possible, languages other than English;

(B)  health, with emphasis on:

(i)  physical health, including the importance of proper nutrition and exercise;

(ii)  mental health, including instruction about mental health conditions, substance abuse, skills to manage emotions, establishing and maintaining positive relationships, and responsible decision-making; [~~and~~]

(iii)  suicide prevention, including recognizing suicide-related risk factors and warning signs; and

(iv)  instruction that human life begins at conception and has inherent dignity and immeasurable worth from the moment of conception;

(C)  physical education;

(D)  fine arts;

(E)  career and technology education;

(F)  technology applications;

(G)  religious literature, including the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) and New Testament, and its impact on history and literature; and

(H)  personal financial literacy.

SECTION 2.  This Act applies beginning with the 2023-2024 school year.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2023.