

HB 870 -- Sex Education in Public Schools

Sponsor: Smith (71)

This bill requires any course materials and instruction relating to human sexuality and sexually transmitted diseases to be based on peer-reviewed projects that have been demonstrated to influence healthy behavior, be age appropriate, and must:

- (1) Show abstinence from sexual activity as the only sure way to avoid pregnancy or sexually transmitted infections. Currently, the materials and instruction must also reference the emotional trauma, possible academic results of preadolescent and adolescent sexual activity, and the advantages of adoption. The bill removes these provisions;
- (2) Present students with the latest information on the benefits and side effects of all contraceptives and barrier methods as a means to prevent pregnancy and reduce the risk of contracting sexually transmitted infections and other diseases;
- (3) Provide information regarding the vaccine for human papillomavirus;
- (4) Encourage communication about sexuality between parents and their children;
- (5) Help students understand the stages of maturity and how alcohol and drug use can affect decisions about sexuality;
- (6) Help students develop skills in critical thinking, problem solving, decision making, and stress management in order to make healthy decisions about sexuality and relationships; and
- (7) Teach students about the dangers of sexual predators including online predators and how to behave responsibly and remain safe on the Internet and about the consequences of inappropriate text messaging.

The bill repeals the provision which prohibits a school district or charter school from providing abortion services and an abortion provider from furnishing human sexuality instruction and curriculum. Each school district or charter school must make all curriculum material and the names and affiliations of presenters used in the school's instruction available for public inspection prior to its use.