

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 627

102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE CHRISTOFANELLI.

1433H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

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## AN ACT

To amend chapter 161, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to the parents' bill of rights.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Chapter 161, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 161.843, to read as follows:

**161.843. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Parents' Bill of Rights".**

**2. As used in this section, the term "parent" means a child's biological or adoptive parent, guardian, or other person having control or custody of the child.**

**3. Parents of a child attending the public schools of this state have the right to participate in and direct the education of their child and to know what is being taught in their child's school.**

**4. This section shall be construed to protect and promote the rights of parents to participate in and direct the education of their child who attends a public school. Such parents' rights shall include, but are not limited to, the following:**

**(1) The right to be notified, if any school employee or official suspects that a criminal offense has been committed against the parents' child, in a timely manner of all reported incidents pertaining to student safety including, but not limited to, any felony or misdemeanor committed by a teacher or other school employee, subject to the following:**

**(a) No employee of any public school or school district shall encourage, coerce, or attempt to coerce a minor child to withhold information from such minor child's**

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in bold-face type in the above bill is proposed language.

18 parents, except that any such person required to report suspected abuse or neglect  
19 under sections 210.109 to 210.183 may encourage a minor child to withhold information  
20 if disclosure could reasonably be expected to result in abuse or neglect;

21 (b) No employee who is a person required to report suspected abuse or neglect  
22 under sections 210.109 to 210.183 shall be required to notify the parents of such  
23 suspected abuse or neglect of the parent's child if the parent is the alleged perpetrator;

24 (2) The right to be involved in their child's education and to be notified of these  
25 rights and of any information that affects the well-being of their child;

26 (3) The right to access and view school curricula, guest lecturer materials, and  
27 staff training manuals in a timely manner and in an easily accessible format;

28 (4) The right to access school district and school building performance  
29 information in a timely manner and in an easily understood and fully accessible format;

30 (5) The right to transparent access to school and school district financial  
31 information in an easily understood and fully accessible format;

32 (6) The right to choose existing educational choice options provided by law that  
33 best suit the learning needs of their child, but which shall not be construed to include  
34 educational choice options for any school district or local educational agency that is not  
35 specifically authorized by statute for such student, school district, or local educational  
36 agency including, but not limited to, the right of parents to choose which public school,  
37 school district, or local educational agency is best for the parents' child under a system  
38 for open enrollment across district boundaries that shall be created and funded by the  
39 general assembly;

40 (7) The right to opt their child out of the classroom for any presentation of  
41 content listed in the syllabus with which the parents disagree, if the parent of such child  
42 provides for an alternative location and safe and secure supervision during the time that  
43 such contested content is being presented;

44 (8) The right to control their child's likeness in district materials, subject to  
45 exceptions such as court orders; and

46 (9) The right to control their child's health and identifying markers including,  
47 but not limited to, the right to opt out of health measures not required by state order or  
48 statute.

49 5. The public schools of this state shall take all actions necessary to promote,  
50 preserve, and protect the rights described in this section including, but not limited to,  
51 the following actions:

52 (1) Making available to the public all curricula such as the title of each textbook,  
53 course outlines, and reading lists at least thirty days before the beginning of a semester  
54 in which the material will be taught;

55           **(2) Making available to the public school building level and district academic**  
56 **performance information including, but not limited to:**

57           **(a) Any financial and academic data submitted to the department of elementary**  
58 **and secondary education;**

59           **(b) The percentage of all students scoring at the proficient level or higher on all**  
60 **assessments administered under the Missouri assessment program or any subsequent**  
61 **equivalent assessment adopted;**

62           **(c) The percentage of students in each reportable subgroup including, but not**  
63 **limited to, race, ethnicity, economically disadvantaged, students with disabilities, and**  
64 **English language learners scoring at the proficient level or higher on all assessments**  
65 **administered under the Missouri assessment program or any subsequent equivalent**  
66 **assessment adopted; and**

67           **(d) For grades three to eight, the growth score in English language arts and in**  
68 **math measured against the national normal curve equivalent or any subsequent**  
69 **equivalent measurement adopted; and**

70           **(3) Making available to the public all financial data available in a searchable and**  
71 **easily understood format including, but not limited to:**

72           **(a) Financial reports and audits including, but not limited to, any reports**  
73 **submitted to the state;**

74           **(b) Payment data showing all payments made by the school or school district;**  
75 **and**

76           **(c) Information about the tax rates and revenues associated with the school or**  
77 **school district.**

78           **6. (1) No school or school employee shall compel a teacher or student to adopt,**  
79 **affirm, adhere to, or profess ideas in violation of Title IV or Title VI of the federal Civil**  
80 **Rights Act of 1964, as amended, including, but not limited to, the following:**

81           **(a) That individuals of any race, ethnicity, color, or national origin are inherently**  
82 **superior or inferior;**

83           **(b) That individuals should be adversely or advantageously treated on the basis**  
84 **of individual race, ethnicity, color, or national origin; and**

85           **(c) That individuals, by virtue of their race, ethnicity, color, or national origin,**  
86 **bear collective guilt and are inherently responsible for actions committed in the past by**  
87 **other members of the same race, ethnicity, color, or national origin.**

88           **(2) This subsection shall not be construed to prohibit teachers or students from**  
89 **discussing public policy issues or ideas that individuals may find unwelcome,**  
90 **disagreeable, or offensive.**

91           **(3) This subsection shall not be construed to prohibit a school employee from**  
92 **discussing the ideas and history of the ideas listed in this subsection.**

93           **7. Any material required to be available to parents under this section shall be**  
94 **made available in a searchable electronic format at all times. Such material shall be**  
95 **placed on the department of elementary and secondary education website or on such**  
96 **electronic platform as may be provided by the department.**

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