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1 IN THE HOUSE

2 SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 125
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION
5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to health education."

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

8 * Section 1. PURPOSE. The purpose of this Act is to foster the devel-
9 opment and dissemination of educational activities and materials that will
10 assist students, teachers, administrators, and parents in the perception,
11 appreciation, and understanding of health principles and problems, and
12 responsible sexual behavior.

13 * Sec. 2. AS 14.16.050(a)(4) is amended to read:

14 (4) requirements relating to students and educational
15 programs:

16 (A) AS 14.30.180 - 14.30.350 (relating to educational
17 services for exceptional children);

18 (B) AS 14.30.360 - 14.30.380 [AS 14.30.360 - 14.30.-
19 370] (establishing health education program standards);

20 (C) AS 14.30.400 - 14.30.410 (relating to bilingual
21 and bicultural education).

22 * Sec. 3. AS 14.30.360 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

23 (c) The board shall develop an instruction program with separate
24 age appropriate components addressing the subjects of reproductive
25 health education, family life education, pregnancy prevention educa-
26 tion, and sexually transmitted diseases and make the program available
27 to school districts. The board shall also make available information
28 about other programs developed by other states upon request of a
29 school district.

1 * Sec. 4. AS 14.30 is amended by adding new sections to read:

2 Sec. 14.30.362. REQUIRED HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAM. (a) Under
3 guidelines developed by the board, each governing body shall implement
4 instruction in comprehensive health education for grades kindergarten
5 through 12. Instruction in comprehensive health education must in-
6 clude the following subjects: community health, consumer health,
7 environmental health, growth and development, nutritional health,
8 personal health, prevention and control of diseases and disorders,
9 safety and accident prevention, substance use and abuse, dental
10 health, and mental and emotional health.

11 (b) A governing body may use the instruction program made avail-
12 able by the board under AS 14.30.360, or may develop or select their
13 own instructional materials addressing the subjects of reproductive
14 health education, family life education, and pregnancy prevention
15 education. Each governing body shall encourage parents and other
16 members of the community to participate in the development of curricu-
17 lum components and materials.

18 (c) A course or instruction in sexually transmitted diseases
19 must be taught within the reproductive health, family life, prevention
20 and control of diseases and disorders, or pregnancy prevention educa-
21 tion programs, or as a separate program.

22 Sec. 14.30.364. STAFF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS. As part of their
23 program for staff development, the department and governing bodies
24 shall provide adequate funding and appropriate staff development
25 activities for education personnel participating in health education
26 programs.

27 Sec. 14.30.366. EXEMPTION FROM INSTRUCTION. (a) Under policies
28 and guidelines adopted by the governing body, public school principals
29 shall develop a method of notifying parents of students in the

1 relevant grades of the content of the instructional materials concern-
2 ing reproductive health, family life, pregnancy prevention, and of the
3 parents' ability to exempt their child from this instruction, and from
4 instruction in sexually transmitted diseases if instruction in the
5 diseases is presented as a part of a prevention and control of dis-
6 eases and disorders program or as a separate program. Notice must be
7 provided sufficiently in advance of a student's enrollment in courses
8 using these instructional materials to allow parents and legal guard-
9 ians the opportunity to preview the materials and exempt their chil-
10 dren.

11 (b) A public school principal, upon receipt of a statement
12 signed by a student's parent or legal guardian stating that participa-
13 tion by the student in the health education program conflicts with the
14 family's beliefs, shall exempt that student from a portion or all of
15 the units on reproductive health, family life, and pregnancy preven-
16 tion and instruction in sexually transmitted diseases where a conflict
17 occurs. A student may not be penalized as a result of an exemption.
18 A governing body shall use procedures to provide that students ex-
19 empted from the program by their parents or guardians are not embar-
20 rassed by the exemption.

21 * Sec. 5. AS 14.30.370 is amended to read:

22 Sec. 14.30.370. EVALUATION. Health education programs conducted
23 under AS 14.30.360 - 14.30.380 [AS 14.30.360] shall be evaluated by
24 the department in the same manner as other curriculum programs are
25 evaluated, except that the evaluation must [SHALL] also include
26 changes in the health status of the pupils as determined by physical
27 and dental examinations conducted under AS 14.30.070 and 14.30.120.

28 * Sec. 6. AS 14.30 is amended by adding a new section to article 4 to
29 read:

1 Sec. 14.30.380. DEFINITIONS. In AS 14.30.360 - 14.30.380,

2 (1) "comprehensive health education" means health education
3 in a school setting that is planned and carried out with the purpose
4 of maintaining, reinforcing, or enhancing the health, health-related
5 skills, and health attitudes and practices of children and youth that
6 are conducive to their good health and that promote wellness, health
7 maintenance, and disease prevention; it includes age-appropriate,
8 sequential instruction in health either as part of an existing course
9 or as a special course;

10 (2) "family life education" means instruction intended to:

11 (A) develop an understanding of the physical, mental,
12 emotional, social, economic, and psychological aspects of close
13 personal relationships and an understanding of the physiological,
14 psychological, and cultural foundations of human development;

15 (B) support the development of responsible personal
16 values and behavior and aid in establishing a strong family life
17 for students in the future and emphasize the responsibilities of
18 parenting;

19 (C) provide information about the law relating to the
20 sexual conduct of minors and sexual abuse of minors, including
21 criminal sexual conduct;

22 (3) "pregnancy prevention education" means instruction
23 intended to:

24 (A) stress the importance of abstaining from sexual
25 activity until marriage;

26 (B) help students develop skills to enable them to
27 resist peer pressure and abstain from sexual activity;

28 (C) explain methods of contraception, and the risks
29 and benefits of each method;

1 (4) "reproductive health education" means instruction in
2 human physiology, conception, prenatal care and development, fetal
3 alcohol syndrome, childbirth, and postnatal care.