

1 HB321
2 203839-3
3 By Representative Sorrell
4 RFD: Education Policy
5 First Read: 25-FEB-20

SYNOPSIS: This bill would require the specific content and instructional materials to be presented in any program or curriculum that includes sex education or the human reproductive process in a public K-12 school to be disclosed to the parents or guardians of all unemancipated students who are of an eligible age or grade level to participate in the program or curriculum, and would require the prior written permission of the parents or guardians of a student before participation.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

Related to public K-12 schools; to amend Section 16-40A-2, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to sex education; to require the specific content and instructional materials to be presented in any program or curriculum that includes sex education or the human reproductive process to be disclosed to

1 the parents or guardians of all unemancipated students who are
2 of an eligible age or grade level to participate in the
3 program or curriculum; and to require the prior written
4 permission of the parents or guardians of a student before
5 participation.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

7 Section 1. Section 16-40A-2, Code of Alabama 1975,
8 is amended to read as follows:

9 "§16-40A-2.

10 "(a) Any program or curriculum in the public schools
11 in Alabama that includes sex education or the human
12 reproductive process shall, as a minimum, include and
13 emphasize the following:

14 "(1) Abstinence from sexual intercourse is the only
15 completely effective protection against unwanted pregnancy,
16 sexually transmitted diseases, and acquired immune deficiency
17 syndrome (AIDS) when transmitted sexually.

18 "(2) Abstinence from sexual intercourse outside of
19 lawful marriage is the expected social standard for unmarried
20 school-age persons.

21 "(b) Course materials and instruction that relate to
22 sexual education or sexually transmitted diseases should be
23 age-appropriate.

24 "(c) Course materials and instruction that relate to
25 sexual education or sexually transmitted diseases should
26 include all of the following elements:

1 "(1) An emphasis on sexual abstinence as the only
2 completely reliable method of avoiding unwanted teenage
3 pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

4 "(2) An emphasis on the importance of self-control
5 and ethical conduct pertaining to sexual behavior.

6 "(3) Statistics based on the latest medical
7 information that indicate the degree of reliability and
8 unreliability of various forms of contraception, while also
9 emphasizing the increase in protection against pregnancy and
10 protection against sexually transmitted diseases, including
11 HIV and AIDS infection, which is afforded by the use of
12 various contraceptive measures.

13 "(4) Information concerning the laws relating to the
14 financial responsibilities associated with pregnancy,
15 childbirth, and child rearing.

16 "(5) Information concerning the laws prohibiting
17 sexual abuse, the need to report such abuse, and the legal
18 options available to victims of sexual abuse.

19 "(6) Information on how to cope with and rebuff
20 unwanted physical and verbal sexual exploitation by other
21 persons.

22 "(7) Psychologically sound methods of resisting
23 unwanted peer pressure.

24 "(8) An emphasis, in a factual manner and from a
25 public health perspective, that homosexuality is not a
26 lifestyle acceptable to the general public and that homosexual
27 conduct is a criminal offense under the laws of the state.

1 "(9) Comprehensive instruction in parenting skills
2 and responsibilities, including the responsibility to pay
3 child support by non-custodial parents, the penalties for
4 non-payment of child support, and the legal and ethical
5 responsibilities of child care and child rearing.

6 "(d) (1) The specific content and instructional
7 materials to be presented during a given school year in any
8 program or curriculum that includes sex education or the human
9 reproductive process shall be disclosed during registration
10 directly to the parents or guardians of all unemancipated
11 students who are of an eligible age or grade level to
12 participate in the program or curriculum. The parents or
13 guardians of a student shall provide prior written permission
14 to the school, valid for the current school year, before the
15 student participates in the program or curriculum. The school
16 shall send confirmation to the parents or guardians of receipt
17 of the written permission documentation.

18 "(2) Parents or guardians who wish to discontinue a
19 child's participation in a program or curriculum described in
20 subdivision (1) may submit a request to withdraw that child
21 from the instruction. The school shall send confirmation to
22 the parents or guardians upon receipt of the withdrawal
23 request."

24 Section 2. This act shall become effective on the
25 first day of the third month following its passage and
26 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.