

1 State of Arkansas
2 94th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2023
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1526

5 By: Representatives Bentley, Beck, K. Brown, Ennett, C. Fite, Gramlich, Haak, D. Hodges, McAlindon,
6 Pilkington, Rose, Scott, Vaught
7 By: Senator B. Davis
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For An Act To Be Entitled

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10 AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH AND SAFETY CURRICULA OFFERED
11 BY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND OPEN-ENROLLMENT PUBLIC
12 CHARTER SCHOOLS; TO REQUIRE A HEALTH AND SAFETY
13 COURSE OFFERED BY A PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT OR OPEN-
14 ENROLLMENT PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL TO INCLUDE
15 INFORMATION REGARDING BREASTFEEDING; AND FOR OTHER
16 PURPOSES.
17
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Subtitle

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20 TO REQUIRE A HEALTH AND SAFETY COURSE
21 OFFERED BY A PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT OR
22 OPEN-ENROLLMENT PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL TO
23 INCLUDE INFORMATION REGARDING
24 BREASTFEEDING.
25
26

27 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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29 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 16, Subchapter 10, is
30 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

31 6-16-1007. Health class – Breastfeeding curriculum required.

32 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

33 (1) Breastfeeding a newborn child for a minimum of two (2) to
34 four (4) months reduces Sudden Infant Death Syndrome ("SIDS") by up to forty
35 percent (40%), and this number increases to sixty percent (60%) for newborn
36 children breast fed for four (4) to six (6) months;



1 (2) Any amount of breastfeeding decreases the following for
 2 infants who are breastfed:

3 (A) Infant mortality due to any cause by nineteen percent
 4 (19%);

5 (B) Type 2 Diabetes by thirty-three percent (33%);

6 (C) The risk of childhood and adult obesity by twenty-two
 7 percent (22%);

8 (3) Breastfeeding a newborn child for six (6) to twelve (12)
 9 months reduces hypertension for lactating mothers by eleven percent (11%);

10 (4) Breastfeeding for more than twelve (12) months reduces all
 11 types of breast cancer for lactating mothers by twenty-eight percent (28%);

12 (5) For lactating mothers, Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus is reduced
 13 by thirty-two (32%) or more with a longer period of time spent breastfeeding;
 14 and

15 (6) Any amount of breastfeeding decreases the following for
 16 lactating mothers:

17 (A) Premenopausal breast cancer by fourteen percent (14%);

18 (B) Postmenopausal breast cancer by eleven percent (11%);

19 and

20 (C) Ovarian cancer by thirty percent (30%);

21 (7) The provision of information surrounding the number of
 22 benefits that breastfeeding results in for both infants and lactating mothers
 23 helps to raise awareness about the importance of breastfeeding.

24 (b) Each health and safety course offered by a public school district
 25 or open-enrollment public charter school shall include information regarding
 26 breastfeeding, including without limitation the benefits of breastfeeding:

27 (1) As healthy nutrition for all infants; and

28 (2) For lactating mothers.

31 **APPROVED: 4/12/23**