
HOUSE BILL 2056

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Representatives Shea and McCaslin

1 AN ACT Relating to including information about age of consent,
2 capacity to consent, and child support in sexual health education;
3 and amending RCW 28A.300.475.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.300.475 and 2007 c 265 s 2 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) By September 1, 2008, every public school that offers sexual
8 health education must assure that sexual health education is
9 medically and scientifically accurate, age-appropriate, appropriate
10 for students regardless of gender, race, disability status, or sexual
11 orientation, and includes information about the age of sexual
12 consent, the capacity to consent, the requirements related to child
13 support, abstinence, and other methods of preventing unintended
14 pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. All sexual health
15 information, instruction, and materials must be medically and
16 scientifically accurate. Abstinence may not be taught to the
17 exclusion of other materials and instruction on contraceptives and
18 disease prevention. A school may choose to use separate, outside
19 speakers or prepared curriculum to teach different content areas or
20 units within the comprehensive sexual health program as long as all
21 speakers, curriculum, and materials used are in compliance with this

1 section. Sexual health education must be consistent with the January
2 2005 guidelines for sexual health information and disease prevention
3 developed by the department of health and the office of the
4 superintendent of public instruction. For the purposes of this
5 subsection, "consent" has the same meaning as in RCW 9A.44.010.

6 (2) As used in (~~chapter 265, Laws of 2007,~~) this section
7 "medically and scientifically accurate" means information that is
8 verified or supported by research in compliance with scientific
9 methods, is published in peer-review journals, where appropriate, and
10 is recognized as accurate and objective by professional organizations
11 and agencies with expertise in the field of sexual health including
12 but not limited to the American college of obstetricians and
13 gynecologists, the Washington state department of health, and the
14 federal centers for disease control and prevention.

15 (3) The superintendent of public instruction and the department
16 of health shall make the January 2005 guidelines for sexual health
17 information and disease prevention available to school districts,
18 teachers, and guest speakers on their web sites. Within available
19 resources, the superintendent of public instruction and the
20 department of health shall make any related information, model
21 policies, curricula, or other resources available as well.

22 (4) The superintendent of public instruction, in consultation
23 with the department of health, shall develop a list of sexual health
24 education curricula that are consistent with the 2005 guidelines for
25 sexual health information and disease prevention. This list shall be
26 intended to serve as a resource for schools, teachers, or any other
27 organization or community group, and shall be updated no less
28 frequently than annually and made available on the web sites of the
29 office of the superintendent of public instruction and the department
30 of health.

31 (5) Public schools that offer sexual health education are
32 encouraged to review their sexual health curricula and choose a
33 curriculum from the list developed under subsection (4) of this
34 section. Any public school that offers sexual health education may
35 identify, choose, or develop any other curriculum, if the curriculum
36 chosen or developed complies with the requirements of this section.

37 (6) Any parent or legal guardian who wishes to have his or her
38 child excused from any planned instruction in sexual health education
39 may do so upon filing a written request with the school district
40 board of directors or its designee, or the principal of the school

1 his or her child attends, or the principal's designee. In addition,
2 any parent or legal guardian may review the sexual health education
3 curriculum offered in his or her child's school by filing a written
4 request with the school district board of directors, the principal of
5 the school his or her child attends, or the principal's designee.

6 (7) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall,
7 through its Washington state school health profiles survey or other
8 existing reporting mechanism, ask public schools to identify any
9 curricula used to provide sexual health education, and shall report
10 the results of this inquiry to the legislature on a biennial basis,
11 beginning with the 2008-09 school year.

12 (8) The requirement to report harassment, intimidation, or
13 bullying under RCW 28A.600.480(2) applies to this section.

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