

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5167

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As of February 6, 1997

**Title:** An act relating to prohibiting schools from presenting homosexuality as positive, normal behavior.

**Brief Description:** Prohibiting schools from presenting homosexuality as positive, normal behavior.

**Sponsors:** Senators Stevens, Zarelli, Hochstatter and Schow.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Education: 2/11/97.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

**Staff:** Aldo Melchiori (786-7439)

**Background:** Current law provides that whether or not a program about sex education or human sexuality is to be introduced in the common schools is a matter decided at the district level by the local school board.

School districts are required to involve parents and local community groups in the planning, development, evaluation and revision of any instruction offered as part of the school program.

Parents or legal guardians can have their child excused upon filing a written request and alternate educational opportunities must be provided for the child.

**Summary of Bill:** The Legislature finds that the principles of morality and truth, as well as instruction to avoid profanity and falsehood, are prerequisites to a sound education and the maintenance of a virtuous and ethical society.

The Legislature finds a compelling state interest in ensuring that the beliefs and values of most parents regarding homosexuality, bisexuality, transsexuality or transvestism are not denigrated or denied by public schools and that homosexuality, bisexuality, transsexuality or transvestism are not presented, promoted or approved as positive or normal.

Public school employees, volunteers, guests, or other school instrumentalities may not present, promote or approve homosexuality, bisexuality, transsexuality, transvestism, or any such conduct, act, practice, or relationship as positive, normal behavior; as acceptable, legitimate conduct; or as a natural, alternate lifestyle.

In the event of conflicts between this act and any other provision, the provisions of this act govern.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect immediately.