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SENATE BILL 5506

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State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senators McAuliffe, Darneille, Frockt, Lias, Kohl-Welles, Chase, Keiser, and Hasegawa

Read first time 01/22/15. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to including information on preventing sexual  
2 abuse and violence in sexual health education; and amending RCW  
3 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  
8 sexual 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 abstinence and other  
12 methods of preventing unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted  
13 diseases, and includes information on preventing sexual abuse and  
14 violence and understanding consent. All sexual health information,  
15 instruction, and materials must be medically and scientifically  
16 accurate. Abstinence may not be taught to the exclusion of other  
17 materials and instruction on contraceptives and disease prevention. A  
18 school may choose to use separate, outside speakers or prepared  
19 curriculum to teach different content areas or units within the  
20 comprehensive sexual health program as long as all speakers,  
21 curriculum, and materials used are in compliance with this section.

1 Sexual health education must be consistent with the January 2005  
2 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.

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

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

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