
SENATE BILL 5478

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2005 Regular Session

By Senators Stevens, Benson, Swecker, Benton and Oke

Read first time 01/26/2005. Referred to Committee on Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to truth in describing sex education; adding new
2 sections to chapter 28A.230 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** This act may be cited as the truth in
5 describing sex education act.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The legislature finds that section 912 of
7 the welfare reform act of 1996 amends Title V of the social security
8 act, that Washington state receives funding from Title V welfare, that
9 section 510 defines abstinence education, and that entities promoting
10 or teaching abstinence education must verify compliance as required by
11 federal law. The legislature further finds that school districts and
12 their community committee members are free to determine the type and
13 content of sex education programs used in their district. The
14 legislature intends by this act to help parents clearly identify the
15 type of education being taught, assist community committee members in
16 selecting the best materials to comply with school district policy, and
17 support teachers in complying with their school district policy.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** School districts shall determine the type
2 and content of their abstinence education or comprehensive sex
3 education curriculum in accordance with the following:

4 (1) "Abstinence education" means an educational or motivational
5 program that:

6 (a) Has as its exclusive purpose, teaching the social,
7 psychological, and health gains realized by abstaining from sexual
8 activity;

9 (b) Teaches abstinence from sexual activity outside marriage as the
10 expected standard for all school age children;

11 (c) Teaches that abstinence from sexual activity is the only
12 certain way to avoid out-of-wedlock pregnancy, sexually transmitted
13 diseases, and other associated health problems;

14 (d) Teaches that a mutually faithful monogamous relationship in
15 context of marriage is the expected standard of human sexual activity;

16 (e) Teaches that sexual activity outside of the context of marriage
17 is likely to have harmful psychological and physical effects;

18 (f) Teaches that bearing children out-of-wedlock is likely to have
19 harmful consequences for the child, the child's parents, and society;

20 (g) Teaches young people how to reject sexual advances and how
21 alcohol and drug use increase vulnerability to sexual advances; and

22 (h) Teaches the importance of attaining self-sufficiency before
23 engaging in sexual activity.

24 (2) "Comprehensive sex education" means any program for K-12
25 students that describes sexual behaviors not included in the definition
26 of abstinence education.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** District committees and/or school boards
28 will review their sex education program in accordance with the cycle of
29 curriculum review provided by school district policy. A district must
30 refer to programs dealing with sexuality as either abstinence education
31 or comprehensive sex education in all communications to parents and
32 within the district.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** If a district cannot decide on the
34 definition for their program, the district shall inform the joint
35 committee referred to in RCW 74.12.410(5)(b), which shall appoint a
36 review committee of ten volunteers to review all materials and

1 determine whether the program is abstinence education or comprehensive
2 sex education. Five members of the review committee must be familiar
3 with and have experience with abstinence education, and five members
4 must be familiar with and have experience with comprehensive sex
5 education.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 2 through 5 of this act are each
7 added to chapter 28A.230 RCW.

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