

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1989

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HOUSE BILL 409*

Short Title: Comprehensive Health Education.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Jeralds; Colton and P. Wilson.

Referred to: Education.

March 1, 1989

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO MANDATE COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH EDUCATION IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND TO INCLUDE IN THAT CURRICULUM FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION, PREGNANCY PREVENTION EDUCATION, AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH EDUCATION.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. G.S. 115C-81(e) reads as rewritten:

"(e) ~~School Health Education Program~~ Comprehensive Health Education Program to Be Developed and Administered.

(1) A ~~comprehensive school health education~~ comprehensive health education program shall be developed and taught to pupils of the public schools of this State from kindergarten through ~~ninth~~ twelfth grade.

(2) As used above, "~~comprehensive school health~~" 'comprehensive health education' means health education in a school setting that is planned and carried out with the purpose of maintaining, reinforcing, or enhancing the health, health-related skills, and health attitudes and practices of children and youth that are conducive to their good health and that promote wellness, health maintenance, and disease prevention. It includes age-appropriate, sequential instruction in health either as part of existing courses or as a special course. It includes the subject matter of mental and emotional health, drug and alcohol abuse prevention, nutrition, dental health, environmental health, ~~family living,~~ family life education, reproductive health education, pregnancy

1 prevention education, consumer health, disease control, growth and
2 development, first aid and emergency care, and any like subject matter.
3 ~~Comprehensive school health~~ It also includes the subject matter of
4 bicycle safety in geographical areas where appropriate.

5 (2a) 'Family life education' means instruction intended to:

- 6 a. Develop an understanding of the physical, mental, emotional,
7 social, economic, and psychological aspects of close personal
8 relationships and an understanding of the physiological,
9 psychological, and cultural foundations of human development;
10 b. Provide instruction that will support the development of
11 responsible personal values and behavior and aid in establishing
12 a strong family life for themselves in the future and emphasize
13 the responsibilities of marriage;
14 c. Provide instruction in sexually transmitted diseases, including
15 instruction in the prevention of Acquired Immune Deficiency
16 Syndrome (AIDS) as required in subsection (a2).
17 d. Provide instruction as to the laws of this State relating to sexual
18 conduct of minors, including criminal sexual conduct.

19 (2b) 'Pregnancy prevention education' means instruction intended to:

- 20 a. Stress the importance of abstaining from sexual activity until
21 marriage;
22 b. Help students develop skills to enable them to abstain from
23 sexual intercourse, make responsible sexual decisions based on
24 values and knowledge, and resist negative pressures;
25 c. Explain methods of contraception, and the risks and benefits of
26 each method.

27 (2c) 'Reproductive health education' means instruction in human
28 physiology, conception, prenatal care and development, childbirth, and
29 postnatal care.

30 (3) The development and administration of this program shall be the
31 responsibility of each local school administrative unit in the State ~~that~~
32 ~~receives an allocation of State funds for a school health coordinator, a school~~
33 ~~health education coordinator who serves the local school administrative unit,~~
34 the Department of Public Instruction, and a State School
35 Comprehensive Health Education Advisory Committee. Each local
36 school administrative unit shall develop a program of instruction in
37 comprehensive health education, including family life education,
38 pregnancy prevention education, and reproductive health education for
39 all grades kindergarten through twelfth grade with age-appropriate
40 content reflecting the needs of children at each grade level. In
41 developing the program, the local school administrative unit shall be
42 advised by a local advisory committee appointed by the local board of
43 education. The local school administrative unit may use the curriculum

1 and materials developed by the State Department of Public Instruction
2 or the equivalent approved by the State Board of Education.

3 (3a) Pursuant to policies and guidelines which shall be adopted by the local
4 board of education, public school principals shall develop a method of
5 notifying parents of students in the relevant grades of the content of
6 the instructional materials concerning reproductive health, family life,
7 pregnancy prevention, and of their option to exempt their child without
8 penalty or embarrassment from this instruction.

9 (4) ~~Each existing local school administrative unit is eligible to develop~~
10 ~~and submit a plan for a comprehensive school health education~~
11 ~~program which shall meet all standards established by the State Board~~
12 ~~of Education, and to apply for funds to execute such plans. Each local~~
13 ~~school administrative unit is eligible to apply for a State-funded school~~
14 ~~health coordinator.~~

15 The State Board of Education shall designate an impartial panel to review
16 health education program plans submitted by local school
17 administrative units. Based on the panel's evaluation of the plans, the
18 State Board of Education shall allocate ~~the~~ State-funded school health
19 coordinators. Where feasible, a school health coordinator shall serve
20 more than one local school administrative unit.

21 Each person initially employed as a State-funded school health
22 coordinator after June 30, 1987, shall have a degree in health
23 education.

24 (5) The Department of Public Instruction shall supervise the development
25 and operation of a statewide comprehensive ~~school~~ health education
26 program including curriculum development, the establishment and
27 monitoring of expectations, goals, and outcomes, in-service training
28 provision and promotion of collegiate training, learning material
29 review, and assessment and evaluation of local programs ~~in the same~~
30 ~~manner as for other programs.~~ It is the intent of this legislation that a
31 specific position or positions in the Department of Public Instruction
32 shall be assigned responsibilities as set forth in this subsection.

33 (6) A State ~~School~~ Comprehensive Health Advisory Committee is hereby
34 established.

35 a. The committee shall provide citizen input into the operations of
36 the program, report annually to the State Board of Education on
37 progress in accomplishing the provisions and intent of this
38 legislation, provide advice to the department with regard to its
39 duties under this subsection, and encourage development of
40 higher education programs which would benefit health
41 education in the public schools.

42 b. The committee shall meet as necessary but at least twice
43 annually. It shall select annually a chairperson from among its
44 own membership, each member having an equal vote and the

1 chairperson shall appoint such subcommittees as may be
2 necessary. Members of the committee shall serve without
3 compensation; however, they shall be reimbursed by the
4 Department of Public Instruction for travel and other expenses
5 incurred in the performance of their duties as members of the
6 committee, to the extent that funds are appropriated for this
7 purpose.

8 c. The committee shall consist of 17 members: 10 appointed by
9 the Governor, two by the State Board of Education, one by the
10 Speaker of the House of Representatives, one by the President
11 of the Senate, and three ex officio members: the Chief, Office
12 of Health Education, Department of Human Resources; the
13 Chief, State Health Planning and Development Agency,
14 Department of Human Resources; and the Superintendent of
15 Public Instruction, or their designees. The Governor's
16 appointees shall be named in the following manner: one
17 physician from a list of three names submitted by the North
18 Carolina Medical Society; one physician from a list of three
19 names submitted by the North Carolina Pediatric Society; one
20 physician from a list of three names submitted by the North
21 Carolina Chiropractic Association; one registered nurse from a
22 list of three names submitted by the North Carolina Nurses'
23 Association; one dentist from a list of three names submitted by
24 the North Carolina Dental Society; one member from a list of
25 three names submitted by the North Carolina Medical
26 Auxiliary; one member from a list of three names submitted by
27 the North Carolina Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc.; one
28 member from a list of three names submitted by the North
29 Carolina Association for Health, Physical Education, and
30 Recreation; one member from a list of three names submitted
31 by the North Carolina Public Health Association; one member
32 from a list of three names submitted by the North Carolina
33 College Conference on Professional Preparation in Health and
34 Physical Education. The State Board nominees shall represent
35 local school administrative units and shall have been
36 recommended by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The
37 Speaker's nominee shall be a member of the North Carolina
38 House of Representatives and the President of the Senate's
39 nominee shall be a member of the Senate.

40 d. The appointed members of the advisory committee shall serve
41 for a term of three years. Appointed members may be
42 reappointed up to a maximum of nine years of service.
43 Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as original
44 appointments for the balance of the unexpired term."

1 Sec. 2. The Department of Public Instruction shall have available for all local
2 school districts an updated Comprehensive Health Education curriculum in accordance
3 with this act by the beginning of the 1990-91 school year. All local school
4 administrative districts shall have developed and shall begin implementing the
5 Comprehensive Health Education curriculum in accordance with this act by the
6 beginning of the 1991-92 school year. The State Board of Education, in fulfilling its
7 duty under this act to review and approve local curricula, shall schedule its work in such
8 a way as to facilitate the meeting of the deadline for local school administrative units
9 established in this section.

10 Sec. 3. This act shall be effective upon ratification.