

State of Arkansas  
90th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2015

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1685

By: Representative C. Douglas

## For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO INCLUDE DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS IN THE CURRICULUM FOR HEALTH; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

### Subtitle

AN ACT TO INCLUDE DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS IN THE CURRICULUM FOR HEALTH.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 16, Subchapter 10, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-16-1004. Dating violence awareness.

(a) Annually, in either the month of October for a one-semester course taught in the fall or the month of February for a one-semester course taught in the spring, a unit on dating violence awareness shall be taught as a component of a health course offered in grades seven through twelve (7-12).

(b) A unit on dating violence awareness shall:

(1) Focus on healthy relationships, including the characteristics of healthy relationships;

(2) Teach students the definition of dating violence and abuse, including without limitation:

(A) Warning signs of dating violence and abusive behavior;  
and

(B) Measures to stop or prevent dating violence and abusive behavior;

(3) Inform students about resources and reporting procedures for dating violence or abuse; and



(4) Examine the common misconceptions and stereotypes about dating violence and abuse.

(c)(1) Materials used to teach a unit in dating violence awareness shall be age appropriate.

(2) Information provided shall be objective and based on scientific research that is peer-reviewed and accepted by professionals and credentialed experts in the field of health education.

(d) The Department of Education shall annually provide a list of source materials available for school districts to use to teach a unit on dating violence awareness, including without limitation materials from:

- (1) The Arkansas Coalition Against Domestic Violence;
- (2) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;
- (3) The National Domestic Violence Hotline;
- (4) The National Institute of Health; and
- (5) Other sources of scientifically based research that is peer-reviewed.