

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
92nd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2019

As Engrossed: S2/26/19 H4/1/19
A Bill

SENATE BILL 304

By: Senators Bond, Elliott, G. Leding, K. Ingram
By: Representatives Burch, A. Collins, D. Garner, McCullough, Scott

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS HEALTHY LIFESTYLE
EDUCATION ACT OF 2019; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS HEALTHY LIFESTYLE
EDUCATION ACT OF 2019; AND TO ENSURE THE
HEALTH CURRICULUM IN ARKANSAS PUBLIC
SCHOOLS ADDRESSES CERTAIN HEALTH ISSUES
FACING STUDENTS.

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

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Title.

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Arkansas Healthy Lifestyle Education Act of 2019".

SECTION 2. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings.

The General Assembly finds that:

(1) According to a 2018 report by the United Health Foundation, Arkansas ranks number forty-six (46) in the nation for overall health;

(2) Based on the 2017 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance report, Arkansas ranks highest in the nation for the percentage of students who:

(A) Have considered suicide;

(B) Are considered obese;

(C) Have been forced to have sex; or



(D) Use smokeless tobacco;

(3) According to data reported in 2016 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Arkansas ranked highest in the nation for teen birth rates; and

(4) As a result of Arkansas's rankings in these nationwide findings, it is imperative that the General Assembly ensure that certain topics are addressed in the student health curriculum in our secondary public schools.

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 16, Subchapter 10, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-16-1005. Health curriculum requirements.

(a) A public school district may offer an age-appropriate health course with a curriculum that provides instruction to public school students in grades seven through twelve (7-12) on:

(1)(A) Mental health issues.

(B) Instruction on topics pertaining to mental health issues under this section shall include the following:

(i) Suicide prevention methods; and

(ii) Information regarding recognition of mental health crises;

(2)(A) Substance abuse and addiction issues.

(B) Instruction on topics pertaining to substance abuse and addiction issues under this section shall include information regarding the following:

(i) Abuse of prescription drugs, illicit drugs, alcohol, and other substances known to be abused; and

(ii) Substance abuse, consequences of substance abuse, and prevention methods;

(3)(A) Diet and obesity issues.

(B) Instruction on topics pertaining to diet and obesity issues under this section shall include information regarding the following:

(i) Obesity;

(ii) Cardiovascular disease; and

(iii) Type 2 diabetes;

(4)(A) Tobacco use prevention and cessation.

(B) Instruction on topics pertaining to tobacco use prevention and cessation under this section shall include information regarding the following:

(i) Adverse health effects of using any form of tobacco or nicotine delivery system;

(ii) E-cigarettes and vaping;

(iii) Addiction; and

(iv) Cessation; and

(5)(A) Teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections prevention.

(B) Instruction on topics pertaining to teenage pregnancy prevention under this section shall include information regarding the prevention of pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections through age-appropriate and primary prevention-risk avoidance approaches.

(C) A parent or legal guardian of a public school student may submit a written request for his or her child to be excused from all or any part of the health curriculum regarding teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections prevention under subdivisions (a)(5)(A) and (B) of this section.

(b) The Department of Education shall:

(1) Identify, in consultation with the Department of Health, resources required under this section; and

(2) Provide professional development support for teachers who are responsible for implementing the health curriculum required under this section.

/s/Bond