

1 State of Arkansas
2 92nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2019
4

A Bill

SENATE BILL 304

5 By: Senators Bond, Elliott, G. Leding, K. Ingram
6 By: Representatives Burch, A. Collins, D. Garner, McCullough, Scott
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9 AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS HEALTHY LIFESTYLE
10 EDUCATION ACT OF 2019; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
11

Subtitle

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13
14 TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS HEALTHY LIFESTYLE
15 EDUCATION ACT OF 2019; AND TO ENSURE THE
16 HEALTH CURRICULUM IN ARKANSAS PUBLIC
17 SCHOOLS ADDRESSES CERTAIN HEALTH ISSUES
18 FACING STUDENTS.
19

20
21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
22

23 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Title.

24 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Arkansas Healthy
25 Lifestyle Education Act of 2019".
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27 SECTION 2. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings.

28 The General Assembly finds that:

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

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

34 (A) Have considered suicide;

35 (B) Are considered obese;

36 (C) Have been forced to have sex; or



1 (D) Use smokeless tobacco;

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

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

9
 10 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 16, Subchapter 10, is
 11 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

12 6-16-1005. Health curriculum requirements.

13 (a) Beginning in the 2019-2020 school year, each school district shall
 14 offer a health curriculum that provides evidence-based instruction to each
 15 student before grade eleven (11) on:

16 (1)(A) Mental health issues.

17 (B) The mental health curriculum required under this
 18 section shall include without limitation the following:

19 (i) Suicide prevention methods; and

20 (ii) Information regarding recognition of mental
 21 health crises;

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

23 (B) The substance abuse and addiction curriculum required
 24 under this section shall include without limitation the following:

25 (i) Information regarding prescription drug abuse,
 26 illicit drug abuse, alcohol abuse, and other substances known to be abused
 27 during adolescence; and

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

30 (3)(A) Diet and obesity issues.

31 (B) The diet and obesity curriculum required under this
 32 section shall include without limitation the following:

33 (i) Information aimed at preventing physical health
 34 issues, including without limitation:

35 (a) Obesity;

36 (b) Cardiovascular disease; and

1 (c) Type 2 diabetes; and
2 (ii) Materials designed to promote the role of
3 proper nutrition and a physically active lifestyle in promoting optimal
4 health;

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

6 (B) The tobacco use prevention and cessation curriculum
7 required under this section shall include without limitation information
8 regarding the following:

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

11 (ii) E-cigarettes and vaping;

12 (iii) Addiction; and

13 (iv) Cessation; and

14 (5)(A) Teenage pregnancy prevention.

15 (B) The teenage pregnancy prevention curriculum required
16 under this section shall include without limitation information regarding the
17 following:

18 (i) The prevention of unintended pregnancy and
19 sexually transmitted infections through abstinence and contraception; and

20 (ii) The topic of consent and healthy relationships.

21 (b) The health curriculum required under this section may be
22 incorporated into a school district's existing course offerings.

23 (c) The Department of Education shall:

24 (1) Develop, in consultation with the University of Arkansas for
25 Medical Sciences and the Department of Health, the health curriculum required
26 under this section; and

27 (2) Provide, with the cooperation of and in conjunction with the
28 Department of Health, both online and in-person certification for teachers
29 who are responsible for implementing the health curriculum required under
30 this section.

31 (d)(1) A parent or guardian may submit a written request for his or
32 her child to be excused from all or any part of the health curriculum
33 required under this section.

34 (2) A school district shall not subject a student to
35 disciplinary action or academic penalty if the student is excused from all or
36 part of the health curriculum under subdivision (d)(1) of this section.