

SENATE, No. 2123

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator HOLLY T. SCHEPISI

District 39 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Holzapfel

SYNOPSIS

Requires parental consent for student to participate in health, family life education, or sex education program and provides parents with access to certain public school curricula.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT concerning health, family life education, and sex education
2 programs and amending P.L.1979, c.428.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

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7 1. Section 2 of P.L.1979, c.428 (C.18A:35-4.7) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 2. a. Any child whose parent or guardian **【presents to the school**
10 **principal a signed statement that any part of the instructions in**
11 **health, family life education or sex education is in conflict with his**
12 **conscience, or sincerely held moral or religious beliefs】** does not
13 provide prior written consent to participate in any health, family life
14 education, or sex education program shall be excused from that
15 portion of the course where such instruction is being given and no
16 penalties as to credit or graduation shall result therefrom.

17 b. Any parent or guardian may review the complete health,
18 family life education, or sex education program curricula, including
19 all supplemental materials, to be used in the education program in a
20 class or course in which the parent's or guardian's child is enrolled.
21 A complete copy of all printed materials not subject to copyright
22 protection and a description of all audio-visual materials shall be
23 made available through any available parent or guardian online
24 portal and kept in the school library or office and made available for
25 review to any parent or guardian during school office hours before
26 and during the school year. The audio-visual materials shall be
27 made available to parents and guardians for in-person review, upon
28 request, on the same basis as printed materials are made available.

29 c. Each board of education shall develop and distribute to the
30 parents or guardians of a student enrolled in a class or course in
31 which a health, family life education, or sex education program is
32 included in the curricula and post for public viewing on the school
33 district's website a summary designed to assist parents and
34 guardians in understanding the program as such program progresses
35 and to encourage parental guidance and involvement in the
36 instruction of the students. The summary shall reflect the curricula
37 of the program as taught in the classroom and shall include contact
38 information for the individual or office responsible for maintaining
39 printed and audio-visual materials.

40 (cf: P.L.1979, c.428, s.2)

41

42 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **【thus】** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

STATEMENT

This bill requires parental consent for a public school student to participate in health, family life education, or sex education program and provides parents and guardians with access to the health, family life education, and sex education curricula in public schools.

Under current law, any child whose parent or guardian presents to the school principal a signed statement that any part of the instructions in health, family life education or sex education is in conflict with his conscience, or sincerely held moral or religious beliefs will be excused from that portion of the course where such instruction is being given and no penalties as to credit or graduation will result therefrom.

This bill provides that any child whose parent or guardian does not provide written consent to participate in any health, family life education, or sex education program will be excused from that portion of the course where such instruction is being given and no penalties as to credit or graduation will result.

The bill also provides that any parent or guardian may review the complete health, family life education, or sex education program curricula, including all supplemental materials, to be used in the education program in a class or course in which the parent's or guardian's child is enrolled. A complete copy of all printed materials not subject to copyright protection and a description of all audio-visual materials is required to be made available through any available parent or guardian online portal and kept in the school library or office and made available for review to any parent or guardian during school office hours before and during the school year. The audio-visual materials are required to be made available to parents and guardians for in-person review, upon request, on the same basis as printed materials are made available.

Under the bill, each board of education is required to develop and distribute to the parents or guardians of a student enrolled in a class or course in which a health, family life education, or sex education program is included in the curricula and post for public viewing on the school district's website a summary designed to assist parents and guardians in understanding the program as such program progresses and to encourage parental guidance and involvement in the instruction of the students. The summary will reflect the curricula of the program as taught in the classroom and will include contact information for the individual or office responsible for maintaining printed and audio-visual materials.