

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DPI 2/11/2008

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| LRB Number 07-3218/3 | Introduction Number AB-0750 | Estimate Type Original |
| Description Providing instruction in human growth and development | | |

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Under current law a school board may provide an instructional program in human growth and development in grades kindergarten to 12 that may include instruction in the following areas: 1) self-esteem, responsible decision making, and personal responsibility; 2) interpersonal relationships; 3) discouragement of adolescent sexual activity; 4) family life and skills required of a parent; and 5) human sexuality, reproduction, family planning, human immunodeficiency virus and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, prenatal development, childbirth, adoption, available prenatal and postnatal support, and male and female responsibility. If a school board offers instruction in any of these areas, it must also provide instruction in marriage and parental responsibility.

Under current law, a volunteer health care provider (provider) may apply to the Department of Administration to be permitted to provide health care services without charge in a school or nonprofit agency. If the provider wishes to provide services at a school, the provider must file the application jointly with the school board or, if the school is a charter school, the governing body of the school. "Volunteer health care provider" is defined under current law as a physician, dentist or dental hygienist, registered nurse, practical nurse, nurse-midwife, nurse practitioner, optometrist, physician assistant, or dietitian who receives no income from the practice of that health care profession or who receives no income from the practice of that health care profession when providing services at the school. Under current law, the provider may provide instruction in human growth and development if the instructional program complies with the requirements above, but may not provide instruction in human sexuality; reproduction; family planning, including natural family planning; HIV and AIDS; prenatal development; childbirth; adoption; available prenatal and postnatal support; and male and female responsibility.

This bill provides that a school board may offer an instructional program in human growth and development. If the school board offers an instructional program in human growth and development, the bill requires that the program provide medically accurate information and address all of the following: 1) communication between the pupil and parents or guardians about human sexuality; 2) reproductive anatomy and physiology; 3) self-esteem, responsible decision making, and personal responsibility related to relationships and sexual behavior; 4) how to avoid making or receiving unwanted physical and verbal sexual advances; 5) gender stereotypes and protective behavior; 6) resources available to survivors of sexual assault, including counseling and sources of medical and legal assistance; 7) the effect of alcohol and drug use on responsible decision making; and 8) by grade eight, marriage, parental responsibility, prenatal development, childbirth, adoption, the benefits of abstinence, pregnancy, the prevention of sexually transmitted infections, and the health benefits and side effects of contraceptives approved by the Food And Drug Administration (FDA) to prevent pregnancy and reduce the risk of contracting sexually transmitted infections.

The bill defines "medically accurate information" as empirical or statistical information related to medicine, reproductive health, or mental health that satisfies all of the following: 1) the information is verified or supported by research conducted in compliance with accepted scientific methods and published in peer-reviewed journals, where appropriate; and 2) the information is recognized as accurate and objective by leading medical, psychological, and public health organizations and agencies with expertise in the relevant fields.

The bill requires each school board that elects not to offer human growth and development instruction to notify each pupil's parent or guardian of this fact. Finally, the bill permits providers to provide instruction in marriage, parental responsibility, prenatal development, childbirth, adoption, the benefits of abstinence, pregnancy, the prevention of sexually transmitted infections, and the health benefits and side effects of contraceptives approved by the FDA to prevent pregnancy and reduce the risk of contracting sexually transmitted infections.

State Fiscal Effect: None. If local school boards choose to implement a human growth and development program that is authorized under this bill, it would be the responsibility of the local school boards to provide

the necessary resources.

Local Fiscal Effect: The department does not have the data to estimate the cost of changing a district's curriculum to implement a human growth and development program as authorized by this bill. However it is clear that some cost would be involved either to supplement existing curriculum (which requires staff time) or to purchase new curriculum. Moreover, it is unknown how many districts would choose to implement such a program. Therefore, the local the local fiscal effect is indeterminate.

Since providers cannot receive payment for human growth and development instruction, there would not be any fiscal effect for allowing providers to provide instruction in marriage, parental responsibility, prenatal development, childbirth, adoption, the benefits of abstinence, pregnancy, the prevention of sexually transmitted infections, and the health benefits and side effects of contraceptives approved by the FDA to prevent pregnancy and reduce the risk of contracting sexually transmitted infections.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications