

**First Regular Session  
Sixty-sixth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**PREAMENDED**

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee  
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 07-0670.01 Richard Sweetman

**HOUSE BILL 07-1292**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101     **CONCERNING THE ADOPTION OF SCIENCE-BASED CONTENT STANDARDS**  
102     **FOR INSTRUCTION REGARDING HUMAN SEXUALITY.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not necessarily reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted.)*

Requires school districts, family resource centers, and teen pregnancy prevention programs that offer instruction regarding human sexuality to adopt science-based content standards for such instruction. Specifies the minimum requirements for a school district curriculum concerning human sexuality.

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Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
3 hereby finds that:

4 (a) The United States has one of the highest teenage pregnancy  
5 rates in the developed world, and the state of Colorado ranks  
6 twenty-second in the nation in total teen pregnancies, with approximately  
7 twelve thousand one hundred thirty girls becoming pregnant before their  
8 eighteenth birthdays each year;

9 (b) The state of Colorado ranks twenty-ninth in the nation in total  
10 incidences of sexually transmitted diseases;

11 (c) It is estimated that twenty percent of teen pregnancies in  
12 Colorado will result in abortions.

13 (2) The general assembly further finds that:

14 (a) Current research documents the fact that those individuals who  
15 receive early, comprehensive, age-appropriate, and medically accurate  
16 education regarding the health benefits and other benefits derived from  
17 sexual abstinence, family planning, and birth control are more likely to  
18 delay sexual activity and engage in such activity with a higher degree of  
19 responsibility and safety; and

20 (b) Comprehensive sex education programs that complement the  
21 involvement and instruction of parents and respect the diversity and  
22 values of the state provide Colorado's youth with a foundation of  
23 information to help them make **responsible, healthy,** and informed  
24 decisions.

25 (3) Therefore, the general assembly hereby declares that the  
26 objective of this act is to reduce the incidence of sexually transmitted  
27 diseases, pregnancy, and abortion among teenagers by ensuring that

1 school districts and teen pregnancy prevention programs that offer  
2 instruction and information concerning human sexuality provide  
3 teenagers the science-based information they need to make responsible  
4 and healthy decisions, with a primary emphasis on abstaining from sexual  
5 activity. For teenagers who become sexually active, school districts and  
6 teen pregnancy prevention programs that offer instruction concerning  
7 human sexuality shall both encourage such teenagers to return to  
8 abstinence and teach the effective use of condoms or other means of  
9 contraception.

10 SECTION 2. 22-1-110.5, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended  
11 BY THE ADDITION OF THE FOLLOWING NEW SUBSECTIONS to  
12 read:

13 22-1-110.5. Education regarding human sexuality - prior  
14 written notice to parent - content standards. (5) A SCHOOL DISTRICT,  
15 CHARTER SCHOOL, OR INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL THAT OFFERS  
16 INSTRUCTION REGARDING HUMAN SEXUALITY SHALL ADOPT CONTENT  
17 STANDARDS THAT ARE BASED ON SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, WHICH CONTENT  
18 STANDARDS SHALL:

19 (a) ENCOURAGE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT AND FAMILY  
20 COMMUNICATION;

21 (b) EMPHASIZE ABSTINENCE FROM HIGH-RISK BEHAVIORS AND  
22 TEACH THAT SEXUAL ABSTINENCE IS THE ONLY CERTAIN WAY AND THE  
23 MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO AVOID PREGNANCY AND SEXUALLY  
24 TRANSMITTED DISEASES AND INFECTIONS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO  
25 INSTRUCTION REGARDING HIV/AIDS, HEPATITIS C, THE LINK BETWEEN  
26 HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS AND CERVICAL CANCER, AND THE AVAILABILITY  
27 OF THE HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS VACCINE;

1 (c) INCLUDE INSTRUCTION TO HELP STUDENTS DEVELOP SKILLS FOR  
2 MAKING RESPONSIBLE AND HEALTHY DECISIONS ABOUT HUMAN  
3 SEXUALITY, PERSONAL POWER, BOUNDARY SETTING, AND RESISTING PEER  
4 PRESSURE, INCLUDING HOW TO AVOID UNWANTED VERBAL, PHYSICAL, AND  
5 SEXUAL ADVANCES AND HOW TO AVOID MAKING UNWANTED VERBAL,  
6 PHYSICAL, AND SEXUAL ADVANCES;

7 (d) INCLUDE DISCUSSION OF HOW ALCOHOL AND DRUG USE IMPAIRS  
8 RESPONSIBLE AND HEALTHY DECISION-MAKING;

9 (e) BE AGE-APPROPRIATE, CULTURALLY SENSITIVE, AND  
10 MEDICALLY ACCURATE ACCORDING TO PUBLISHED AUTHORITIES UPON  
11 WHICH MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS GENERALLY RELY;

12 (f) PROVIDE INSTRUCTION ABOUT THE HEALTH BENEFITS AND  
13 POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS OF USING CONTRACEPTIVES AND BARRIER  
14 METHODS TO PREVENT PREGNANCY, INCLUDING INSTRUCTION REGARDING  
15 EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION AND THE AVAILABILITY OF CONTRACEPTIVE  
16 METHODS; AND

17 (g) FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS THAT HAVE ESTABLISHED A  
18 CHARACTER EDUCATION PROGRAM PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-29-103,  
19 PROMOTE THE GUIDELINES OF BEHAVIOR ESTABLISHED IN THE CHARACTER  
20 EDUCATION PROGRAM.

21 (6) NOTHING IN SUBSECTION (5) OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE  
22 INTERPRETED TO PROHIBIT DISCUSSION OF HEALTH, MORAL, ETHICAL, OR  
23 RELIGIOUS VALUES AS THEY PERTAIN TO HUMAN SEXUALITY, HEALTHY  
24 RELATIONSHIPS, OR FAMILY FORMATION.

25 (7) SCHOOL DISTRICTS, CHARTER SCHOOLS, AND INSTITUTE  
26 CHARTER SCHOOLS ARE ENCOURAGED TO INVOLVE PARENTS AND  
27 COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONTENT

1 STANDARDS REQUIRED BY SUBSECTION (5) OF THIS SECTION AND TO  
2 INTEGRATE AVAILABLE COMMUNITY RESOURCES INTO PROGRAMS  
3 PROVIDING INSTRUCTION REGARDING HUMAN SEXUALITY.

4 (8) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE  
5 REQUIRES, "SEXUAL ABSTINENCE" MEANS NOT ENGAGING IN ORAL,  
6 VAGINAL, OR ANAL INTERCOURSE OR GENITAL SKIN-TO-SKIN CONTACT.

7 SECTION 3. 22-25-104 (3) (a), Colorado Revised Statutes, is  
8 amended to read:

9 **22-25-104. Colorado comprehensive health education program**  
10 **- role of department of education - recommended curriculum**  
11 **guidelines - allocation of funds - rules and regulations.** (3) (a) With  
12 the assistance of parents, school districts, the department of public health  
13 and environment, the Colorado commission on higher education, and  
14 other interested parties, the department of education shall develop  
15 recommended guidelines for the implementation of local comprehensive  
16 health education programs. THE GUIDELINES DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO  
17 THIS SUBSECTION (3) SHALL COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION  
18 22-1-110.5.

19 SECTION 4. 22-25-110 (2), Colorado Revised Statutes, is  
20 amended to read:

21 **22-25-110. Funding of existing programs - operation of other**  
22 **health education programs.** (2) Nothing in this article shall be  
23 interpreted to require a school district or board of cooperative services to  
24 establish a local comprehensive health education program nor shall it be  
25 interpreted to prevent a school district or board of cooperative services  
26 from offering a health education program which is not operated under the  
27 requirements of this article; except that any school district or board of

1 cooperative services offering such a health education program shall:  
2 (a) Comply with the public information requirements contained  
3 in section 22-25-106 (4); ~~and~~  
4 (b) Establish a procedure to exempt a student, upon request of the  
5 parent or guardian of such student, from a specific portion of the health  
6 education program on the grounds that it is contrary to the religious OR  
7 PERSONAL beliefs and teachings of the student or the student's parent or  
8 guardian; AND  
9 (c) COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED IN SECTION  
10 22-1-110.5 (5) REGARDING THE ADOPTION OF SCIENCE-BASED CONTENT  
11 STANDARDS FOR INSTRUCTION REGARDING HUMAN SEXUALITY.

12 [REDACTED]  
13 **SECTION 5.** 25.5-5-603 (2) (b), Colorado Revised Statutes, is  
14 amended to read:

15 **25.5-5-603. Program - teen pregnancy and dropout**  
16 **prevention.** (2) (b) Such services may include, but shall not be limited  
17 to, the following services or combination of services:

- 18 (I) Intensive individual or group counseling, which includes a  
19 component on SEXUAL ABSTINENCE AND delayed parenting;
- 20 (II) Vocational, health, and educational guidance;
- 21 (III) Public health services such as home visits or visiting nurse  
22 services; AND
- 23 (IV) INSTRUCTION CONCERNING HUMAN SEXUALITY; EXCEPT THAT  
24 THE DEPARTMENT, IN PROVIDING A TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION  
25 PROGRAM THAT PROVIDES INSTRUCTION CONCERNING HUMAN SEXUALITY,  
26 SHALL ADOPT SCIENCE-BASED CONTENT STANDARDS TO ENSURE THAT ANY  
27 INSTRUCTION CONCERNING HUMAN SEXUALITY THAT IS PROVIDED

1 SATISFIES THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 22-1-110.5 (5), C.R.S., AS IF  
2 THE PROGRAM WERE PROVIDED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT.

3 **SECTION 6. Effective date.** This act shall take effect July 1,  
4 2007.

5 **SECTION 7. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
6 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
7 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.